

Shahal to discuss Jerusalem issues

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has appointed Police and Energy Minister Moshe Shahal to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on issues connected to Jerusalem, an Israeli official said Friday. Mr. Shahal's spokeswoman, Tami Paul-Cohen, said that he would meet next week with Faisal Al Hussein, chosen by the PLO for the talks. "There are all kinds of problems associated with Jerusalem that were raised by the Palestinians in Cairo and the prime minister appointed Minister Shahal to deal with these," she told Reuters. Mr. Shahal and Mr. Hussein would discuss easing the Israeli closure on Arab East Jerusalem to allow Palestinians access for the purposes of trade, studies and medical services, she said. Mr. Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat agreed at their first working meeting in Cairo Wednesday to appoint negotiators to discuss Palestinian access to Jerusalem. Ms. Paul-Cohen said the status of Jerusalem would not be addressed in the talks between Mr. Shahal and Mr. Hussein. "Jerusalem itself is not a subject for negotiations," she said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
 جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)

PLO bodyguards purged in Tunis

TUNIS (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is conducting a large-scale purge of its internal security services amid dissent about peace with Israel and the discovery of an assassination plot against Chairman Yasser Arafat. Palestinian sources said Friday. Dozens of Palestinian security agents and bodyguards of PLO officials have been arrested and jailed by the organisation, said the sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. Among those arrested in the operation, which started last Saturday and continued Friday, were bodyguards of the PLO economics chief Ahmad Qureia and of PLO spokesman Yasser Abed Rabbo, they said. Those arrested were being detained in the Hammam Shott, the PLO's old headquarters in the southern suburbs of Tunis, under the guard of Jihad Al Ghul, Mr. Arafat's top security man. The security services were trying to find links between those arrested and hardline groups, including dissenting PLO factions, which are opposed to the autonomy accord with Israel, the sources said. The purged security officers had displayed "scepticism" towards the accord, which was signed last month in Washington, they said.

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Jordanian, Pakistani beheaded in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — A Jordanian and a Pakistani were beheaded Friday for drug smuggling, the Interior Ministry announced. The Jordanian, identified as Atiyeh Ben Ayed Ben Kheleif Al Dehayem, was beheaded in Arar, a town close to the Saudi border with Jordan, after a Sharia court convicted him of smuggling hashish into the country. The Pakistani, Raheem Kol Kol Raheem, was beheaded in Riyadh where he was convicted for smuggling heroin, according to the ministry.

Israeli search for Palestinian guerrillas

TYRE (AFP) — The Israeli army Friday mounted a massive search in South Lebanon for three Palestinian members of the Islamic Jihad who wounded an Israeli soldier in an attack Thursday. Around 200 soldiers, backed by armoured cars, erected 14 roadblocks in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, and conducted minute searches of traffic passing through, a security source said. Israeli military sources said on Thursday that a motorised patrol came under automatic gunfire as it crossed the border from the "security zone" into Israel, with one soldier slightly wounded. The attackers were in the "security zone" when they opened fire. The Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement released Friday. Earlier Friday, the Israelis shelled ravines in the north of the "security zone" used by infiltrating groups, Lebanese police said.

Israeli official visited Qatar, daily says

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A senior Israeli official has paid a first visit to Qatar to discuss establishing economic links between the Jewish state and the Gulf monarchy, the daily Haaretz reported Friday. The visit followed a secret meeting last week between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Hammad Ben Jasssem Ben Jaber Al Thani at the United Nations in New York, the paper said. The Israeli minister also had talks in New York with Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali, according to the paper, which said Mr. Peres refused to confirm or deny the report. Government sources said the talks with Qatar showed that the Arabs were moving towards a thawing of relations with Israel, which only has diplomatic ties with Egypt.

Egypt detains opposition leader

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police are holding an opposition party leader who published a newspaper article challenging President Hosni Mubarak to give a public accounting of arms contracts. State prosecutors said Friday that Helmy Murad, vice-president of the Socialist Labour Party, was detained on Thursday along with two journalists from the party newspaper, Al Shaab. Mr. Murad, a 74-year-old diabetic who was once minister of education, was kept overnight in a small cell in a Cairo police station. Officials would not say whether he faced charges.

General Assembly lifts S. Africa sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. General Assembly on Friday voted to lift economic sanctions against South Africa, in line with a call from African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela. Most sanctions will be lifted immediately, but an oil embargo adopted in 1986 will be maintained until the transitional executive council becomes operational, the resolution adopted by consensus by the assembly said.

Israel reviews its plans for pullout, settlers' 'security'

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — The army presented Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin with plans Friday on how to protect Israeli settlers under its withdrawal from Jericho and the Gaza Strip, military sources said.

Mr. Rabin, who is also defence minister, heard the plans at a meeting ahead of Wednesday's negotiations with the Palestinians on the details of Israeli withdrawal and implementation of the Sept. 13 autonomy accord.

Military officials proposed laying roads bypassing Palestinian communities and refugee camps as well as building electric fences and observation posts in areas near the "most exposed" settlements in the Gaza Strip, they said.

The officials, including Chief of Staff Ehud Barak, also called for close cooperation between Israeli authorities, including the Shin Beth domestic intelligence service, and the new Palestinian police force.

The projects could cost Israel between \$180 to \$250 million, the sources said.

General Barak illustrated the plans with maps and slides during the meeting at the defence ministry in Tel Aviv, where several dozen right-wingers protested the autonomy accord.

Mr. Rabin then briefed his cabinet in the ministry building about the defence plans and about his meeting in Cairo last Wednesday with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)

Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Another planning session will be held at the chief of staff's office on Sunday.

Israel and the PLO are to begin two sets of detailed talks, on implementation of the autonomy plan and on Israeli troop withdrawal, in Egypt on the day the peace deal goes into effect.

The talks were announced during the Rabin-Arafat meeting.

"If all goes according to plan, in March '94 we will transfer Gaza and Jericho," Police Minister Moshe Shahal said.

"Until then we need to reach the most important arrangements on operations of (Israeli) security forces facing a Palestinian police force," Mr. Shahal told Israel Radio.

Under the terms of the accord for autonomy beginning in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, Jewish settlements are to remain in place and the army will be responsible for their security.

Mr. Rabin had asked the army to study ways to protect the some 120,000 settlers living in the territories.

Israel Radio reported that Mr. Rabin told his cabinet that Israeli officials were ready to negotiate, but that the PLO "does not appear to be organised" to start the talks.

The radio reported that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will head the delegation negotiating the implementation of the plan.

But the appointment was not confirmed in the cabinet meeting because the Israelis are waiting for the PLO to announce the composition of its delegation.

Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer said, "We must first wait until the PLO publishes its list at the start of next week and we will decide then." Mr. Ben Eliezer told the radio.

Mr. Ben Eliezer also added that he had "not the slightest doubt that Syria will continue to negotiate with Israel and will not hinder negotiations with the Palestinians in an active manner."

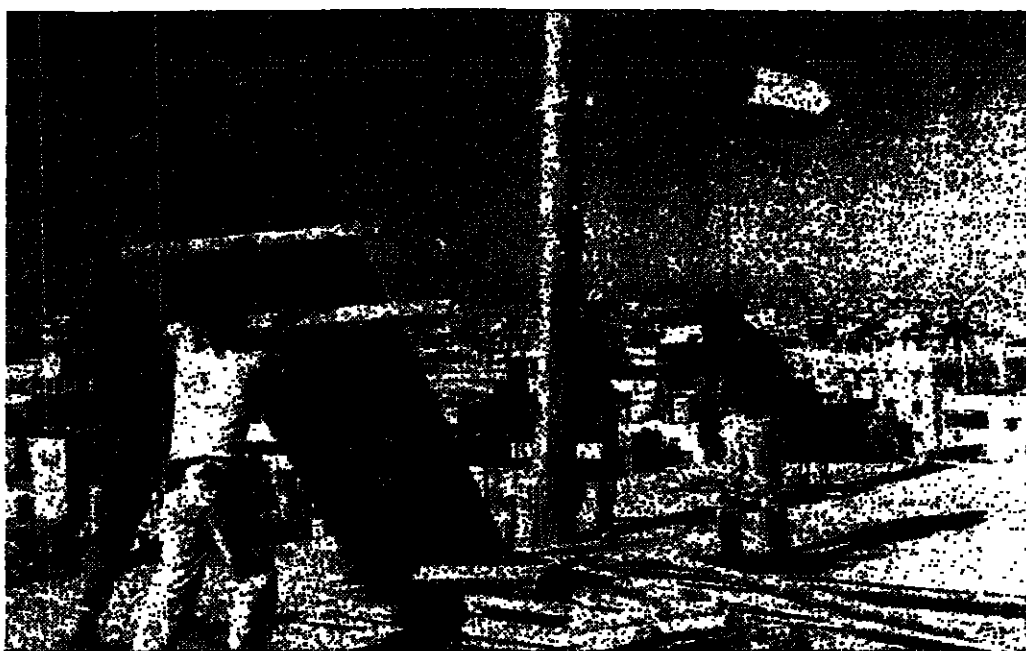
Gen. Uzi Dayan, nephew of the late Moshe Dayan, defence minister during the 1967 war when Israel seized the Gaza Strip and West Bank, is to head the delegation in the talks on troop withdrawal, officials said earlier.

The military talks will be held in the Egyptian Red Sea port of Tab.

A ministerial-level liaison committee overseeing implementation, headed by Mr. Peres, will meet in Cairo, according to the radio.

Cabinet Secretary Shimon Sheves said that Mr. Arafat told Mr. Rabin "in Cairo Wednesday: 'Let's speak like cousins.'"

After recalling the remark, Mr. Sheves told the radio: "We have to continue living together with the Palestinians in the Middle East, and besides, as far as I can remember, we were cousins once."



Arab construction workers build on the roof of a building in Gaza City. Israelis and Palestinians will meet 13 Oct. start of the Gaza and Jericho

first self-rule, to settle the overall structure of the interim self-government, the structure of the (autonomy) council and the modality of its elections.

Fateh leaders meet in bid to shore up autonomy deal

Combined agency dispatches

TUNIS — Yasser Arafat and his supporters sought Friday to reassert their leadership in the face of opposition within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to the peace accord with Israel.

PLO sources said members of the Central Committee of Mr. Arafat's Fateh faction opened an emergency meeting designed to show that they are in control of the movement.

The committee meeting was called by Mr. Arafat ahead of a meeting of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) due on Sunday. The council is a key policy-making body in between sessions of the larger Palestine National Council.

The 107-member council is to discuss and vote on the agreement signed between Israel and the PLO in Washington on Sept. 13. It also will be asked to ratify recommendations by Mr. Arafat for Palestinians' plans to take over authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho after an Israeli withdrawal.

Many of the Fateh officials who opposed the agreement with Israel have informed Mr. Arafat they still reject the deal, the sources said. But the rejectionists promised to voice their opposition only within the confines of the committee meeting to avoid damaging the movement.

Under the terms of the agreement, Israel will start transferring authority to the Palestinians in areas such as education, health, welfare, taxation and tourism later in the year.

Two senior leaders of Fateh who oppose the peace accord

did not attend the meeting.

Khalid Al Hassan, a founder of the group with Mr. Arafat in the 1950s, and his brother Hani have criticised the agreement as a sellout to the Israelis.

Sources said Mr. Arafat sent Mahmoud Abbas, who signed the accord with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, to Morocco to try to persuade Khalid Al Hassan to attend the meetings but he refused.

Hani Al Hassan visited Damascus earlier this week for talks with the Syrian-backed Palestinian rejectionist groups who are trying to form a broad front in opposition to the peace deal.

Apart from the Syria-based rejectionists, the main opponent of the deal is the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement, which is vying with Mr. Arafat for political influence in the occupied territories.

So far, the rejectionists have failed to derail the peace accord.

In Amman, a statement by 26 Jordan-based PCC members voiced their rejection of the PLO-Israeli peace accord and accused Mr. Arafat of trying to turn the council into a rubber stamp.

"We reiterate our rejection to the Gaza-Jericho agreement... and we consider what was signed by the PLO leadership as not committing the Palestinian people or the PLO because it is inconsistent with national Palestinian principles," said the signatories, who belong to hard-line Palestinian factions.

Leaders of a 10-member alliance opposed to the peace deal with Israel was meeting in Damascus Friday on forming a new Palestinian leadership to

replace Mr. Arafat.

Officials at the meeting said the alliance would make preparations for a general conference of all Palestinian groups opposed to the Gaza-Jericho self-rule deal to elect a new Palestinian leadership.

"Arafat expelled himself by himself from the PLO when he cancelled the PLO's charter and endorsed an agreement with Israel which ignored the rights of the Palestinian people," Abu Ali Mustafa, deputy leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said.

He told Reuters before taking his seat at the meeting that the alliance would discuss how to ensure the continuation of the uprising against Israel and to set up military attacks against Israel.

Ibrahim Ghosheh, deputy leader of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas, an active group with a strong base in the Israeli-occupied territories but not a member of the PLO, said he hoped the general conference would be held within one month.

Delegates also hoped to "announce a unified national front aimed at reestablishing the unity of the PLO and boycotting all the institutions and elections resulting from the autonomous authorities in Gaza and Jericho," a source close to the meeting said.

The meeting also stressed the unity of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Movements attending the meeting were the Hamas, PFLP, and the four factions of the pro-Syria National Palesti-

(Continued on page 3)

Clinton beefs up Somalia forces

Combined agency dispatches

THE BODIES of two American soldiers have been recovered from Sunday night's fierce street battle in the Somali capital, raising the death toll to 15, a U.N. military spokesman said Friday.

Captain Tim McDavitt said the two bodies were brought in over the last couple of days to one of the U.S. compounds in Mogadishu. They have not been identified, he said.

Capt. McDavitt also confirmed that a Red Cross delegate visited a captured American helicopter pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Michael Durant, and took away a letter Mr. Durant wrote to his family. No information was available on Mr. Durant's condition.

The fighting Sunday night and early Monday also killed a Malaysian peacekeeper and wounded 77 Americans. At least three U.S. soldiers are still missing.

A diplomatic source in Mogadishu said the body of a third American had been found. But Capt. McDavitt said he could not confirm that.

Confirmation that two bodies were recovered raises the U.S. death toll in the Somalia operation to 31 since it began last December. Ninety peacekeepers from other nations also have died.

U.S. military reinforcements dispatched by President Bill Clinton arrived in Mogadishu Friday with the first of their new armour as a Red Cross official saw the U.S. pilot held by Somali gunmen.

A Galaxy C5 cargo plane of the U.S. Force landed some of the soldiers at the airport here as well as Bradley M2 combat vehicles, under the watchful guard of Rangers of the U.S. Quick Reaction Force (QRF).

Red Cross official Suzanne Hofstetter meanwhile said she had seen Mr. Durant, finding him in "good spirits" when she was allowed to speak privately with him about 40 minutes.

She added that the International Committee of the Red Cross had recovered a body believed to be that of a U.S. Army Ranger killed on Sunday in the fierce battle that saw Durant's helicopter shot down.

Mr. Durant was "joking about food, about the lack of pizza," Ms. Hofstetter stated, adding that he was "strong mentally" and had "received medical treatment" for his injuries.

In Washington, President

(Continued on page 3)



Benazir Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), talks with her ally Hamid Nasir. Chaittha whose party secured six seats in the national assembly elections (AFP photo)

Pakistan tug-of-war moves to provinces after Bhutto gains

Combined agency dispatches

LAHORE, Pakistan — Pakistan's ex-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif reached agreement with a spoiler party in southern Pakistan Friday in his battle to defeat election winner Benazir Bhutto in crucial provincial polls.

The two former prime ministers, both short of an absolute majority after Wednesday's general elections, were struggling Friday to forge alliances with smaller parties and independents and to form a coalition government.

Results of elections for the four provincial parliaments on Saturday would be crucial in determining the strength of the future government, diplomats said.

Ms. Bhutto, who emerged with the largest party, could find her government rules little beyond the capital Islamabad if her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) fails to win majorities in the provinces.

Mr. Sharif, as chief minister of Punjab during Ms. Bhutto's 1988-90 government, pre-

vented her from implementing a single item of legislation.

"I am in a strong position to form a government," she said in an interview, adding that she was seeking alliance with small parties and independents.

"We are going to form the next government. There is no doubt about it."

She urged Mr. Sharif to accept his defeat with grace.

Diplomats said the results, giving the PPP 86 seats and Mr. Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML) 72 in the 217-member National Assembly, raised the prospect of a weak government in a hung parliament.

"We have the majority in (southern) Sind and in Punjab," Ms. Bhutto said. "Punjab is the main province."

"It threw out the government of Nawaz Sharif and it threw out my government so it is very important to have stable governments in Punjab and Sind."

Ms. Bhutto was referring to Punjab's revolt against Mr. Sharif earlier this year that finally forced him to resign in

July.

Acting President Wasim Sajjad promulgated an ordinance banning members of parliament from switching sides. A flurry of floor-crossing this year undermined Mr. Sharif's government and contributed directly to his fall from office.

Ms. Bhutto got only two hours sleep Thursday night, staying instead glued to the telephone talking with allies, lambasting losing candidates and mobilising all resources for the final battle, party officials said.

Mr. Sharif meanwhile made an unannounced dash by plane to the capital, Islamabad, where the official APP news agency said he had met separately with President Sajjad and the powerful army chief of staff, General Abdul Waheed, to discuss the "post-election scenario."

He returned to Lahore right after the meeting.

There was no immediate word on the contents of the talks.

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. wants Syria to leave Lebanon

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Warren Christopher called Friday for Syria to withdraw its troops from Lebanon to pave the way for a Middle East peace settlement.

But the secretary, who was meeting in Washington with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, said the pullout was not key to the negotiations between Lebanon and Israel.

"The principal purpose of the track between Lebanon and Israel is to work out the specific problems between the two countries," he said.

The 1989 Taif accords call for the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon, where they were deployed with Lebanese consent to occupy about 70 per cent of the country.

"The United States believes in both the letter and the spirit of the accords," said Mr. Christopher.

"We think the accords ought to be respected and carried out," he said, adding however: "We do not think they are central to the bilateral negotiations between the two coun-

tries.

In the ongoing Middle East peace talks, Lebanon was called for Israel to give up the "security zone" it established inside the Lebanese border to prevent attacks on its territory while Israel is asking for a peace agreement.

Mr. Bouez said Israel's agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to establish limited self-rule in the occupied territories should be followed by accords with Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

On Thursday, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa met with President Clinton. A White House statement described the 20-minute meeting as "constructive" and said Mr. Clinton told Mr. Sharaa he was committed to "a comprehensive peace" in the region between Israel and all its Arab neighbours.

Mr. Sharaa, the highest-ranking Syrian official to hold talks here in nearly 20 years, has called for an overall settlement and accused Israel of stalling after concluding the agreement with the PLO.

Mr. Clinton told Mr. Sharaa

the agreement "could serve as a catalyst for progress on the other tracks," according to the press office statement.

It did not say whether the president had offered to support Syria's demand for recovery of the Golan Heights, nor whether he would meet with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, as Mr. Sharaa proposed on Tuesday.

Mr. Sharaa said Syria wanted to pursue negotiations with Israel on an agreement but would not hold talks without any prospect of a settlement.

Syria's main goal is to recover the Golan Heights.

Mr. Sharaa said this week that peace was impossible unless every inch of the land was returned to Syria.

At a news conference Wednesday he accused Israel of "arrogance and denial of the rights of others" by holding on to the Golan Heights and keeping troops inside Lebanon's border.

"Syria cannot be played around to come to Washington for the sake of talks," Mr. Sharaa said Wednesday. "We want negotiations to achieve

positive results."

Syria announced Thursday it had rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's proposal made at a news conference in Cairo for secret negotiations with Damascus to resolve differences holding up the peace talks.

State-run Radio Damascus said Syria rejected "behind-the-scenes negotiations" and accused Israel of trying to circumvent the Washington talks.

Mr. Rabin made his offer to Syria after he and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat held their first working meeting in Cairo Wednesday.

They agreed to start four parallel sets of negotiations to implement the Sept. 13 declaration of principles.

In a commentary on Thursday, Radio Damascus said: "Israel knows that Syria rejects behind-the-scenes negotiations, since Syria has nothing to say secretly that contradicts its public pronouncements."

"It is common knowledge that Israel, which remained reluctant to the last moment to join the Madrid peace process, has been working to destroy this (Madrid) formula."

Iraq divulges arms suppliers

Combined Agency
despatches

BAGHDAD — Iraq provided the U.N. with information about arms suppliers on Friday, but a top U.N. envoy said Baghdad still had not fully complied with ceasefire terms.

"We have as a matter of fact, last night received the answers at the Iraqi cabinet which has approved the release of data which we have requested," Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Iraq, told Reuters.

He said his experts were attending a meeting to receive data on Iraq's former arms suppliers. Iraq had stalled on weapons procurement data for more than a year despite repeated U.N. requests.

"Of course it is not a matter of full compliance at this stage... there are more things to be done," Mr. Ekeus said. He said the Iraqis needed to put forth more effort if they wanted a clean bill of health from him.

Asked whether Iraq's weapons file remains still open, he said: "Yes, it is indeed for us... in biological, chemical and missiles there are still more things to be done."

But concerning Iraq's nuclear capability, he said: "My feeling is it appears that IAEA thinks more has been achieved in that area."

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been entrusted with scrapping Iraq's nuclear programme. More than a year ago, senior IAEA inspectors said Iraq's once-secret nuclear programme was dead but cautioned against its revival in the absence of future control.

Baghdad wants the U.N. to remove sanctions which have blocked shipments of Iraqi oil, the country's main export. The sanctions were imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Mr. Ekeus, who arrived in Iraq last Friday, declined to describe Iraqi answers as final saying they needed to be analysed and assessed. "We need all our resources to evaluate," he said.

But he said Iraq's agreeing to supply the answers was a step in the right direction.

"It is a positive step indeed and the effort from our side has now started to gain some results," he said. "We think considerable progress has been achieved."

"In some areas there'll be talks about compliance, it will appear at least in bits and pieces," he said.

Under Gulf war ceasefire terms, Iraq is compelled to rid itself of all weapons of mass destruction, means to produce them and accept a strict U.N. mechanism to control and monitor its arms industry.

Full compliance on these issues may lead to an easing or lifting of the oil embargo on

Iraq imposed in response to its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Ekeus said he had no timetable in mind for a review of the sanctions.

He made clear that for Iraq to have the sanctions lifted or eased it needs clearance in several areas.

"On the technical side, of course, considerable progress has been achieved. But there are not only technical sides to be cleared, there is more work to be done," he said.

Mr. Ekeus said he would be meeting Iraq's deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz to sign a report concluding the work of this session.

Iraqi Prime Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayyir has predicted that they would soon lift the embargo on Iraq.

Mr. Khudayyir told reporters only "technical details" remained to be cleared in talks with U.N. negotiators. Any decision on sanctions depends on their report to the Security Council on Iraq's compliance with U.N. orders controlling Iraqi armaments.

"Of course the embargo will be lifted because the Iraqi people have done all that was required of us," Mr. Khudayyir told a group of reporters accompanying former Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin on a two-day visit to Baghdad.

It was the first official comment from Baghdad on ongoing secret talks with Mr. Ekeus.

Information Minister Hamed Yousef Hummadi told the same group of reporters he expected the talks to be concluded in the next two days.

"We are hopeful because we have fulfilled all our commitments with regard to Resolution 687," Mr. Hummadi said. He referred to the U.N. ceasefire resolution stripping Iraq of weapons of mass destruction and setting compensation from Baghdad for its invasion of Kuwait.

All that remained were "some technical discussions regarding future monitoring and other questions relating to Resolution 687," he said. "We expect these will be solved within the next week."

At the United Nations, Iraq urged the international community Thursday to support its demand for an end to the U.N. sanctions.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al-Sahaf also called for a lifting of the "no fly" bans enforced since the end of the Gulf war.

"A single power, i.e. the United States of America, has sought to control the manner in which the U.N. addresses international issues and steers it in accordance with U.S. interests," Mr. Sahaf said.

In a speech to the General Assembly that made no mention of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, he said the United States had "not found it enough to perpetrate the mili-

ary aggression it launched against Iraq on Jan. 17, 1991."

That date marked the start of air strikes by a U.S.-led coalition that a few weeks later drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

Mr. Al Sahaf said other acts of aggression had been carried out "under various false pretexts," including "some unfounded allegations claiming there was a conspiracy against the life of former President George Bush."

He said Iraq found itself in a situation not experienced by any other U.N. founding member, including sanctions which deprived its people of basic human needs, prevented the export of its natural resources — oil — froze its assets and prevented the use of its civil aircraft and ships.

Referring to U.N. weapons teams sent to find and scrap Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction, he said Iraq had cooperated, in compliance with Security Council resolutions, but the council had not fulfilled its obligation to lift the three-year-old sanctions.

"We hereby call upon all countries of the world to support our initiative for dialogue and understanding to prevail between the council and Iraq, so that this may lead without delay to the lifting of the unjust and iniquitous blockade imposed on our country, instead of resorting to the methods of coercion, threat and aggression," he said.

He urged the international community to consider Iraq's demand for its sovereignty, security and territorial integrity to be respected and for the removal of the "no fly zones" illegally imposed on parts of Iraq.

This was a reference to bans, enforced by the United States and its main Gulf war allies on Iraqi flights over northern and southern regions of the country.

Mr. Al Sahaf said the sanctions were "geared towards destroying Iraqi society" and that the importing even of paint for school desks, pencils, notebooks, medical equipment and hospital air conditioning units had been barred.

"The result has been a huge increase in mortality amongst children and the elderly, due to the grave shortage of medicines," he said.

Nuclear fuel removal

The United Nations has shipped about 170 tonnes of equipment to Iraq to remove remaining stocks of nuclear fuel, a senior U.N. inspector said.

"We have received the first shipment of equipment which is needed to remove the fuel," Maurizio Zifferero, deputy director (IAEA), told Reuters.

Mr. Zifferero said the material which will be used to transport the nuclear fuel to Russia had been brought in aboard an

Antonov cargo plane.

Last June, Russia won a contract to remove about 40 kilograms of radioactive fuel from Iraq. U.N. inspectors said it was enough to make one or two nuclear bombs.

"All the equipment needed for the removal operations is now in Iraq," Mr. Zifferero said, adding that the operation would take several months and cost tens of millions of dollars.

"The removal will consist of two shipments. There'll be an interval of approximately a month between the two... and we hope to complete the whole operation by early spring next year," he said.

The used fuel is under IAEA's custody at two locations in and around Tuweitha, Iraq's main nuclear centre, 20 kilometres south of Baghdad.

The fuel will be shipped by air to Russia but will have to be trucked from Tuweitha to Habaniya airport about 60 kilometres southwest of Baghdad.

Mr. Zifferero said the remaining irradiated uranium stocks were the last known amounts left in Iraq.

Saudi urges beefed up defence

Saudi Arabia's military commander during the Gulf war said Wednesday the Gulf states could not afford to rely on Western help in any future conflict in the region and should take steps to guarantee their own defence.

"It would in my view be the greatest long-term mistake to place our security in the hands of others, however friendly and well-intentioned," Prince Khaled bin Sultan said. "We must do more for ourselves."

Prince Khaled, one of Saudi King Fahd's nephews, said western governments were cutting back their defence budgets and the United States in particular may be retreating from its international commitments.

"The possible settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the years ahead may make the west even more reluctant to step in when its help is needed in the region," the retired general said in a speech to the Royal United Services Institute in London.

"The next time around, we may have to face the music alone."

Prince Khaled, like Saudi Arabia's current government and other Islamic states, criticised the West for what he said was a failure to intervene on behalf of what he called a "beleaguered, outgunned people," a reference to Bosnia's Muslims.

He said this was partly because "Western states see none of their vital interests threatened by the tragedy unfolding in the Balkans." The threat posed by Iraq to Gulf oil supplies to the West was one of the issues at stake in the 1991 Gulf war.

Is Clinton rolling political dice in Somali stand-off?

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Whether he likes it or not, President Bill Clinton may be rolling the political dice in tattered Somalia.

Experts say he is gambling with U.S. prestige and perhaps his own political future in dispatching a relatively small additional number of U.S. troops and tanks to help stabilise Mogadishu, now ravaged by guerrillas, in the next six months.

Tenacious fighters of fugitive warlord Mohammed Farah Aided, firing rocket-propelled grenades from rooftops and behind walls, have outmarched American and other U.N. troops in battle after battle over the past two months.

Mr. Clinton made clear in a televised statement Thursday that while he was ordering 5,300 additional U.S. troops to join nearly 5,000 already there, American forces would be pulled out of the country by March 31.

But with many Americans already clamouring to get the troops out immediately, questions are now being raised about how the new force will be used.

One administration official told Reuters they would be "very aggressive" in helping establish order and protecting U.S. troops already in Somalia after a firefight on Sunday took the lives of 13 Americans, wounded another 78 and left at least one captive.

Mr. Clinton stressed that America could not "cut and run" from Somalia to avoid more troop casualties, because it must finish the humanitarian job of eliminating starvation and leaving a reasonably stable society "on our terms."

France on Thursday joined Italy in criticising the tactics of U.S. forces in Mogadishu, saying the operations there were already marked by "faults and excesses."

The foreign ministry in Paris said 1,100 French troops, serving alongside American forces in the U.N. peacekeeping and relief operation would be withdrawn as planned by January despite a U.N. plea to stay.

"On a continent where France has historically had a major political and social stake, that tells you something about the quagmire in Mogadishu," lamented a senior Pentagon official, who asked not to be identified.

Critics and supporters agree that success or failure

of Mr. Clinton's plan to send 1,700 army troops and 104 combat vehicles to Somalia and to station another 3,600 Marines off-shore will be measured by whether lawlessness is still rampant in south Mogadishu early next year.

"I don't know how you can establish complete control of Mogadishu quickly, even if you capture Aided, unless you have enough troops to put them in high numbers everywhere," said Helmut Sonnenfeldt of the Brookings Institution thinktank.

Added retired army General Ernest Graves of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies: "It can be done, but it will probably mean more killing than we have seen before, including American troops."

NEWS ANALYSIS

One administration official bridled at demands in Congress for immediate withdrawal, saying that "all of the humanitarian progress of the past eight months could go down the tubes."

Pentagon officials are privately expressing worry that U.S. military prestige, shredded in the ignominious retreat from Vietnam and rebuilt in the Gulf war, was again being put on the line in Somalia, a country where the United States has virtually no strategic interest.

"Helicopters are nice, but it's so damned hard to fight in a street environment where you don't know who the enemy is and you're trying to keep from killing innocent civilians," said an army special forces colonel, who asked not to be identified.

"And the problem is that those innocent civilians often turn on you because they see you as destroying their clan — even if they don't support Aided," he said.

Democratic Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont said Thursday that the Somalia debate should not be over when U.S. troops are yanked out of Somalia.

"The debate is really on why are we there," he said.

"The humanitarian mission was one that we all supported and should support. That's changed into something that we chase after a warlord, who simply will be replaced by another warlord if we caught him," Mr. Leahy said.

"That's not a policy that the American people support."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait MP seeks data on officials' wealth

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's parliament hopes to pass a law allowing authorities probing corruption to examine personal wealth of senior officials, a lawmaker says. Acting speaker Ahmad Baqer told Reuters Kuwait's opposition-dominated assembly hoped to pass the legislation in the 1993/94 session starting on Oct. 26 to help any officials called upon to investigate future corruption. "The law would be passed in case of future incidents. I do not envisage it being used for current events," he said Thursday by telephone. He did not elaborate on the proposed law. The assembly would also try to pass a law that would allow the courts, subject to the assent of parliament, to try government ministers suspected of corruption. Mr. Baqer said that at the moment ministers could be tried only with the assent of the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. Kuwaitis are angry over alleged corruption and mismanagement inside a multi-billion dollar worldwide investment empire meant to fund the country when the oil runs out. Estimates of the worth of the fund, valued at about \$100 billion before the start of Iraq's seven-month 1990-91 occupation, range from \$20 billion to \$40 billion. The asset drop at due mostly to Gulf war expenses. But parliamentarians say at least some of the fall was due to years of wrongdoing in a range of state investment bodies for whom a number of government ministers are ultimately responsible.

Protests in Sudan over fuel shortage

CAIRO (R) — Police in Sudan fired tear gas and made charges with motorcycles to break up crowds protesting against a crippling shortage of petrol, a Sudanese newspaper based in Cairo said Thursday. The newspaper, Al Khartoum, said the protest happened on Tuesday in Omdurman, which lies across the Nile from the Sudanese capital Khartoum. It reported that demonstrations erupted on Monday and continued in three areas of the city on Wednesday. The newspaper said there had been similar protests in wad Medani, a city on the Nile 170 kilometres southeast of Khartoum, where demonstrators burned a government vehicle. Police used tear gas to disperse them and some were injured. Salah Mohammad Ibrahim, press counsellor at the Sudanese embassy in Cairo, confirmed there had been protests but said they were small and scattered. "It is true that there are some scattered demonstrations because of the problems of transport due to the shortage of supplies of gas and oil," he told Reuters. "But I don't think it is in a very big scale. It is very small." Asked about details of the newspaper report, Mr. Ibrahim said: "I think it is a sort of exaggeration."

Gunmen kill three in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — Gunmen shot dead three civilians and seriously wounded two in the suburbs of Algiers, the official news agency APS said Thursday. APS, quoting security services, described the gunmen as terrorists — the official term for fundamentalists fighting to set up an Islamic state. Hundreds of people have been killed in a wave of violence in the last 21 months blamed on Muslim fundamentalist activists. The violence erupted after the army-backed authorities scrapped the country's first multi-party elections after a first round of voting in December 1991. The now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had a massive lead in the poll.

Egypt to host WTO conference in 1995

NUSA DUA, Indonesia (AFP) — Egypt has been unanimously chosen to host the 11th World Tourism Organisation (WTO) general assembly in 1995, an organising official with the 10th conference here said Friday. All 121 full member countries, four associate members, and some 240 affiliate members of the WTO voted for Egypt, the official said. The current five-day conference in the resort island of Bali was scheduled to end Friday. Morocco, Egypt's rival bidder for the 11th conference, has been listed as a potential host for 1997 general assembly along with China, Russia and Turkey, he added.

Moroccan prisoners stage hunger strike

RABAT (R) — Six detainees at a civil prison in the central Moroccan city of Fez began a hunger strike of unlimited duration on Thursday to protest against a ban on visits from their families. In a statement to the media, they said that since Sept. 20 the prison administration had "prohibited that we meet visitors and we are completely isolated from the outside world." The prisoners are serving between five and 12 years for disturbing the peace. They staged three warning hunger strikes of 24, 48 and 72 hours each before deciding on a fast of unlimited duration.

Yemen's parliament to elect presidential council

SANAA (R) — Yemen's parliament will elect a new five man presidential council Monday to replace the current team headed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, whose term expires this month. The surprise decision Thursday followed widespread reports that following Yemen's first direct parliamentary elections last April a new president would be directly elected by the country's seven million voters. Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) is the largest party in the 301-member assembly. Vice-President Ali Salem Al Baidh has remained in his Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) stronghold of Aden for the past two months after disagreements with Mr. Saleh's party over the way the next president should be chosen. Mr. Baidh, whose party has less than half the GPC's 142 parliamentary seats, was pressing for a constitutional amendment to make the presidential council a directly elected body. Senior representatives of the three parties in the ruling, parliamentary coalition, the YSP, the GPC and the Islamist party Islah, had talks with Mr. Baidh last month but failed to persuade him to return to Sanaa. The official SABA news agency said preparations were underway for the parliamentary vote on Monday.

Israel sees triangular deal with Egypt, Jordan in tourism

NUSA DUA, Indonesia (AFP) — Israel, sensing that peace in the Middle East will encourage a surge in sight-seeing, is exploring ways of developing tourism projects with Egypt and Jordan in a unique triangular arrangement, an Israeli official said here Friday.

"We are very much interested in doing something with Egypt and Jordan in a triangle cooperation... to develop tourism projects in the Red Sea area," Israel's deputy director-general of tourism, Mordechai Benari, told AFP.

Mr. Benari was attending the 10th World Tourism Organisation conference, which was

ending Friday in the resort island of Bali.

He said Israel would hold talks with Egypt next week to coordinate a tourism project in the Red Sea area, and a third party — Jordan — could be added to the arrangement when a peace agreement had been reached with the Kingdom.

"We have no diplomatic relations with Jordan but it will come," Mr. Benari said. "You cannot avoid war sometimes, you also cannot avoid peace. Peace will come."

Israel, preparing for such cooperation, has already conducted a survey of the designated area in the Red Sea to

see if it can ecologically sustain the project, he said.

There is a common interest to preserve the coral reefs that are the favourite tourist attractions in the area, he said.

"If we spoil the coral, or if the Jordanians spoil it, it is the same. We will kill the goose," which lays the golden eggs, he said. "So we should coordinate with the Jordanians and Egyptians to safeguard the treasure."

Israel, which currently has 33,000 hotel rooms, is to double the capacity of rooms in the Dead Sea and Red Sea area.

Tourist arrivals last year in Israel reached 1.8 million peo-

ple, yielding earnings of \$2 billion, he said.

He said about 60 per cent of foreign tourists were from Europe and 40 per cent were Jews.

By the end of this year, the tourist arrivals were expected to reach two million people, providing a bounty of between \$2.3 billion and \$2.5 billion for the economy, he said.

"We do expect relations with many countries and other Arab countries. As we are curious to visit them, they are curious to visit us," Mr. Benari said.

"We hope we will be able to offer Muslim tourists specially

connected with Haj and Umrah," he said.

Taking an example of Haj pilgrims from Turkey, he said they could visit Israel on the way to Saudi Arabia or Jordan as there is a direct flight from Istanbul to Tel Aviv.

With peace, Israel can also expect arrivals of tourists from Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, he said.

For other Muslim countries outside the Middle East that have yet to restore relations with Israel, such as Indonesia and Pakistan, Muslim faithful could visit Israel and Jerusalem — Islam's third holiest site — before returning home via

Mecca, Mr. Benari said.

Israel is also proposing a joint venture with Palestinian and Jordanian representatives for developing a tourism project on the River Jordan, at Casra Jahud, reputed to be the site where Jesus was baptised, he said.

The project is situated south of Jericho on the border with Jordan, and will come under the jurisdiction of the future Palestinian autonomous region.

"We think that it can be attractive for Christian pilgrims but we need peace because it is now in the military zone," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 P/E El Horouk
17:41 L'Ecole Des Fars
18:30 Beamanboir
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ushuata
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Fancili Boys
21:00 Varieties
21:30 Perspective
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature Film: "Loyalist"

PRAYER TIMES

06:13 Fajr
05:30 (Sunrise) Duka
11:23 Dhur
14:42 Asr
17:16 Maghreb
18:33 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Ternavata Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 632526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 634932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Moderate weather conditions will prevail and winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 14/28
Aqaba 21/33
Deserts 10/30
Jordan Valley 18/34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27.3, Aqaba 31.5. Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal Al Mahari 751672
Dr. Hana Mansour 750197
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 831039
Dr. Mohammed Al Isah 752971
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 778356
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Samirani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 843402
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Awad 980075
Khalil pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 8016115
Jabal Amman Maternity 643362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musaker Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Marika 8016115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050

Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)905500
Jm Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hama Modern Hospital (09)999990

IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275553
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 New Delhi (RJ)
07:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
08:30 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 Colombo (RJ)
11:45 Dhaka, Aqaba (RJ)
12:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 London, Berlin (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:45 Larnaca (CY)
07:30 Sanaa (YV)
08:30 Rome (AZ)
09:30 Sanaa (YV)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
11:45 Dhaka, Aqaba (RJ)
12:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 London, Berlin (RJ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:45 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 London (RJ)
15:30 Jeddah (RJ)
16:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
17:45 Damascus (RJ)
18:15 Larnaca (RJ)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
06:45 Larnaca (CY)
07:30 Sanaa (YV)
08:30 Rome (AZ)
09:30 Sanaa (YV)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
11:45 Dhaka, Aqaba (RJ)
12:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 London, Berlin (RJ)

Princess Basma urges Mafrq women to help in development

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma urged local women's unions in Mafrq to work on contributing towards the governorate's development.

Addressing a meeting Thursday in Mafrq of women representatives in the governorate, the Princess said, "a sound basis of cooperation and coordination is needed in attaining aspired goals."

She urged women's unions to define projects and give priority to matters designed to improve the standard of living of the local families.

Princess Basma reviewed the country's national strategy on

women, noting that it calls for short and long term plans aimed at improving the status of Jordanian women.

Speakers at the meeting demanded that local women be given preference in employment opportunities within their own governorate and requested that more kindergartens be set up and charitable organisations' work be encouraged and supported by the government.

Among those present were governor Qahtan Majali and Nadia Sour of the University of Jordan who spoke about the role of the women's sector in her region.

Post offices to accept utility bill payments

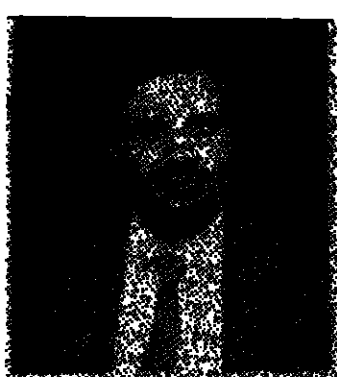
AMMAN (J.T.) — Before the end of 1993, post offices around the country will begin accepting payment of telephone, water and electricity bills, according to Abdullah Al Jazi, Ministry of Post and Communications secretary general.

The ministry will soon announce the location of post offices in the Greater Amman area where telephone bills could be paid thus saving the public long waiting periods at the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) centres, Dr. Al Jazi told Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

In an article published Friday, Dr. Al Jazi said long queues of subscribers were noticed at the TCC centres in Amman and other regions since the Housing Bank stopped processing the payment of the telephone bills on behalf of the TCC.

The ministry has 900 post offices which will collect utility bill payments from the public, said Dr. Al Jazi.

He added that the post offices are currently handling student applications to universities, car licence renewals and matters related to the Civil



Abdullah Al Jazi

Status Department.

Also by the end of the year, postage stamps will be available at several pharmacies and major shopping centres, and post office boxes will be installed in each district, Mr. Al Jazi announced.

Furthermore, he said, the ministry is currently in contact with Greater Amman Municipality to arrange for home delivery of mail.

Referring to improvements in the mail delivery system, Mr. Al Jazi said that any mail posted before 4 p.m., is sure to reach its destination the following day.

WAJ says it will not increase water charges

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Friday said that there will be no further increases in water charges.

Although WAJ plans to increase revenues in order to continue to provide services, it does not intend to increase the price of water, said Kamal Zou'bi, director of WAJ's Subscribers Affairs Department.

He said the cost of new water supply pipes would be increased; the new costs are as follows: JD 88 for a three-quarter-inch pipe, JD 103 for a one-inch pipe, and JD 551 for a four-inch pipe.

The previous charge for all sizes, he noted, was JD 35. An annual fee of JD 500 will be charged for the use of artesian wells, plus one fils per

each cubic metre pumped from such wells, added Mr. Zou'bi. WAJ has decided to double the price of the authority's tank truck water from 500 fils to JD 1 per cubic metre, Mr. Zou'bi said.

Calling on the public to pay their water bills and thus help WAJ carry out expansion projects and repair damaged pipes, Mr. Zou'bi said that the authority's staff is ready to examine water meters and pipes at the request of subscribers.

Noting that recently WAJ has been receiving complaints about unusually high water bills, Mr. Zou'bi said that subscribers are asked to check their sanitary systems for leaks and to economize in watering gardens.

Queen meets with Hilary Clinton Tells Jerusalem Fund its work is crucial

WASHINGTON (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor was the guest of honour at a banquet organised by the Jerusalem Fund for Education and Community Development Thursday to raise funds in support of the fund's programme providing humanitarian assistance to Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

Established in Washington, D.C. in 1977, the Jerusalem Fund seeks to improve and expand the educational, cultural and health institutions of the Palestinian community through financial assistance.

Queen Noor emphasised the importance of Jerusalem to all Arabs and Muslims "because it embodies the very essence of our human and pluralistic values — of a community of people of different religions or ethnic backgrounds living together in mutual respect and harmony, sharing moral principles, and honouring common prophets and patriarchs. Jerusalem should and must become a symbol of peace and brotherhood for all mankind."

The work of the fund is particularly crucial at this time, the Queen said, "when the Palestinian people may be standing on the threshold of a new era of national reconstitution and rebirth. Your example should now inspire Arabs throughout the world to cooperate more closely to assume their shared responsibilities and to protect their identity and common interests."

The Queen added that "the Arab Nation's legacy of humanity and hope must be revitalised and given practical expression throughout the Arab World. Peace, security, stability and development are the fundamental rights of all Arabs."

Also speaking at the banquet was the Most Reverend Samir Kafiti, Episcopal Bishop of Jerusalem, who reviewed the future role and importance of Jerusalem in a peace settlement.

Earlier that evening, Queen Noor addressed a reception held in her honour by the International Council for Women in the Arts (ICWA) in preparation for an exhibition of work by Arab women artists to be held in April

1994. The ICWA is a non-profit tax-exempt organisation, which is actively involved in promoting women's art from the Middle East, Africa and Asia. It also maintains a data base of artists from these regions, which it shares with museums and universities in the United States.

The planned exhibition, tentatively titled "Arab Women in Transition: From the Traditional to the Contemporary," will feature works of Arab women artists from 15 countries. The exhibited works will include paintings, video works, sculptures, ceramics, jewellery and tapestries.

The title of the exhibition is reflected in the common theme of all the works which blend centuries-old techniques from the Arab World with new forms of expression.

The exhibition is scheduled to open at the National Museum for Women in the Arts and is expected to tour the United States.

Queen Noor said "the exhibition is important and timely because it honours the

pioneers, young and old, of the major contemporary changes in Arab societies — Arab women. It will remind us that art is not only the expression of individual character and personal visions, it is also a mirror of society itself, a cultural trust that artists pass on from one generation to another, a timeless record of who we are, where we came from, and what we seek."

"As we prepare to put behind us a different century that has seen the Arab World suffer almost perpetual warfare and ideological strife, we must join to promote cultural interaction among our peoples — in particular to promote understanding of the Arab World as a region of ancient and varied human culture, and not merely a stretch of strategic geography or the custodian of geological bounty," the Queen added.

The Queen was accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Talal and Princess Ghida.

During her two-day visit to Washington the Queen also met with First Lady Hillary

Clinton at the White House, which took place Thursday. The meeting, focused on Middle East development, peace and other humanitarian issues of common concern.

Queen Noor Friday met with members of the advisory



Clinton at the White House, which took place Thursday. The meeting, focused on Middle East development, peace and other humanitarian issues of common concern.

Queen Noor Friday met with members of the advisory

board of the Center for the Study of the Global South. The centre, established in 1991 by Dr. Clovis Maksoud, is devoted to the study of the role of the global south in a changing international world order. It is part of American University's School of International Service.

Jordan-Japan Association suggests bilateral strategies

AMMAN (J.T.) — A great deal has been achieved since the establishment of diplomatic ties between Jordan and Japan in 1974, said Sharif Jamil Ben Nasser, president of the Jordan-Japan Friendship Association (JJFA).

Sharif Jamil was welcoming guests at the reunion dinner of the JJFA Wednesday evening.

In reviewing some of the history of the two countries' bilateral cooperation, Sharif Jamil recalled that in 1937 the first Japanese trade mission visited Jordan to purchase horses. "Looking at the number of Japanese cars on our roads today, one can conclude that we have exchanged horses for horsepower," said the JJFA president.

Japanese presence in Jordan, he said, has become an integral part of the network of

development. Sharif Jamil praised the distinguished service of the active Japanese volunteers working in different parts of Jordan, in the fields of education, health, art, and agriculture.

He thanked the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, the government of Japan and the Japanese people for their willing assistance to Jordan.

Sharif Jamil also thanked Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda and his staff for the studies and recommendations which paved the way for this assistance "so much felt in different aspects of our lives, whether in the form of timely financial assistance, soft loans or technical know-how, and training programmes here in Jordan or in Japan."

The JJFA president re-

marked that he sympathised with the concerns of the representatives of the Japanese community in Jordan and representatives of world renowned Japanese companies present at the dinner.

He suggested organising meetings with their investors and businessmen in Jordan and with the concerned ministers to enlighten them on economic developments in light of recent events.

Ambassador Ikeda addressed the gathering at the Inter-Continental Hotel saying that the Jordan-Japan relationship has strengthened during the last few years since the Gulf crisis through intensified economic cooperation and mutual attention on the general public level.

"Since I arrived here nine

months ago I have always been grateful for the kind words directed to my country by the ministers and many other people I met for the things my country did for Jordan at the time of the Gulf crisis. When I was back in Japan last week, I was also pleased to find that there seems to be an increased interest in the political and economic situation of Jordan on the part of many Japanese whom I met and who are in the political, bureaucratic and business quarters more or less exerting influence on our bilateral relations. I also note with appreciation the recent mutual cooperation in the multilateral arena, particularly, the Jordanian support for our efforts to reform the United Nations system," said the ambassador.

But he said, "despite the

increased mutual understanding in the past few years, the level of knowledge about each other is still quite limited."

Ambassador Ikeda suggested that the Jordanian side exert efforts to know more about Japan, especially about how the system there works.

He added that the Japanese side must understand more about the delicate and important role that Jordan is playing and can play in the future in the region.

Mr. Ikeda said that the recent dramatic development in the Middle East peace process "will probably require, all the more, mutual efforts to maintain and strengthen the bilateral relations since more attention of the world will be directed to the immediate problems of the Palestinian

people in the occupied areas than the situation in Jordan."

He urged the organising of high level personal visits between the two countries so that Jordanian officials could appeal directly to the Japanese leadership about the Jordanian situation and likewise, such a visitor could directly appeal to the Japanese public — the taxpayers and ultimate source of decision making in their system, he said.

Similarly, he continued, a high level Japanese visitor to Jordan could learn directly the situation in this country and explain and appeal to the Jordanian side about Japanese policy.

He said that the role of Jordan-Japan Friendship Association can be crucially important in these efforts.

day's snap polls.

Mir Murtaza Bhutto, self-exiled brother of Ms. Bhutto, has received an electoral rebuff in his bid to enter Pakistan's parliament, observers said.

Murtaza Bhutto was defeated in all three seats he contested from the family's home province of Sind in the elections.

The 39-year-old Damascus-based sole male heir of executed former Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is also a candidate for the Sind assembly in the southern province.

His entry into the election arena, with the backing of mother Begum Nusrat, had triggered a family political row, embarrassing the PPP in the run-up to the national polls.

Observers said the move was aimed at cleansing politics and establishing a system of accountability, as charges of corruption dominated the month-long run-up to Wednesday's snap polls.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Ministry to celebrate King's birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — To celebrate His Majesty King Hussein's birthday which falls on Nov. 14, the Ministry of Social Development will organise a week-long programme including exhibitions, symposia, lectures, films and field visits from Nov. 14 to Nov. 21. The activities will reflect the comprehensive development Jordan has achieved under King Hussein's leadership.

Queen to inaugurate Petra exhibit

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday will inaugurate the Petra exhibition to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre. The exhibition, which runs through Oct. 28, aims to promote awareness about Petra and enhance coordination among all institutions working to preserve the ancient city. Taking part in the exhibition are the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the Antiquities Department, the Higher Council for Science and Technology, the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the French Institute of Archaeology for the Near East and the American Centre of Oriental Research, in addition to other institutions.

2nd battalion leaves for Croatia

AMMAN (Petra) — A second specially trained battalion of the Jordanian Armed Forces left Jordan to serve with the United Nations peacekeeping troops in Croatia. The troops were seen off Thursday by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant General Abdul Hafez Miral Al Kaabneh and senior army officers. Lt-Gen. Kaabneh delivered an address to the force urging them to rise to the occasion and to uphold the Jordanian military credibility in deed rather than word.

Phosphate company ex-chief awarded medal

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued conferring Jordan's Al Kawthar Medal of the First Order on Thabet Al Taher in appreciation of his services as former director general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company.

Carnival march marks Arab Child Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra Friday took part in the children's carnival march to mark Arab Child Day. Dr. Samra also inaugurated the first festival of children's songs and the second festival of the Jordanian children's theatre. The march started from the Royal Cultural Centre and ended at King Abdullah Gardens, where dabkeh and popular dances were performed. Taking part in the march were students from different schools in the Kingdom, as well as children from other Arab countries.

242 villages marked for electrification

AMMAN (Petra) — By the end of 1994, 242 villages and population settlements in Jordan will be supplied with electricity, according to Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary General Abdul Wahab Al Zou'bi. In addition, the ministry has floated tenders for the implementation of projects in 1995, when another 250 villages and settlements will be supplied with electric power, said Mr. Zou'bi during a meeting held at the ministry Thursday in the presence of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Minister of Energy Walid Asfour. Referring to the amounts of diesel oil consumed to produce the electricity, Mr. Zou'bi said Jordan currently spends JD 290 million on 3.9 million tonnes of oil used for this purpose. But he added that the ministry plans to exploit oil shale which is found in abundance in the Kingdom. He did not elaborate.

Conferees call for legislation for children

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the annual conference of the National Association for the Education of the Child Thursday stressed the need to develop legislation related to childhood and prepare a mechanism to implement international charters and conventions which Jordan has already ratified. They highlighted the need for closer cooperation between the association and the governmental and non-governmental organisations in areas of research and studies on pre-school children. Participants stressed the importance of encouraging authors to write for children and called for streamlining efforts to develop cultural programmes for the family, using the various communications media. They agreed on a definition of early childhood, covering the first eight years of a child's life.

Workshops to start on disaster management, reconstruction

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day workshop on disaster management starts today (Saturday). The workshop is organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Taking part are representatives of government institutions, United Nations agencies, universities and national institutions. Participants will discuss several working papers on preparations for disasters, long and short term planning for countering the effects of disasters, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, means of involving representatives of governmental and non-governmental institutions and international organisations in the experience-sharing process. Another workshop on planning and management of post-war reconstruction in the Middle East also starts here today at the University of Jordan. The workshop is organised by York University in the United Kingdom in cooperation with the Architectural Engineering and the Agha Khan Studies Unit of the University of Jordan.

Pakistan tug-of-war moves to provinces.

(Continued from page 1)

Newspapers described the situation after Wednesday's inconclusive elections as a crisis and reported that authorities — meaning the army which will supervise Saturday's provincial elections — was hoping to find a way to push Mr. Sharif and Ms. Bhutto into a compromise.

Jahanghir Badar, the Punjab president of Ms. Bhutto's PPP who lost his bid for a National Assembly seat, said: "Unless we get a majority in Punjab, power at the centre will be meaningless. Past experience has shown that the government cannot implement its manifesto if it lacks a hold on Punjab."

The Election Commission

has instructed all new members of parliament submit lists of their assets within a week, saying they would be disqualified if they did not.

A commission statement said each MP-elect must submit a statement of all assets and liabilities owned by them, their spouse or dependents to the chief election commissioner (CEC) by Oct. 13.

It said the election result of a contestant who failed to submit his statement would not be officially gazetted.

Observers said the move was aimed at cleansing politics and establishing a system of accountability, as charges of corruption dominated the month-long run-up to Wednesday's snap polls.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Photo exhibition displaying pictures from Jordan and Syria by German artist J. Swakowski at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Art exhibition by Mrs. Luci Marto at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Photo exhibition entitled "Desert Rituals" by Egyptian artist Mona Ra'houk at the Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Talib at the Balka's Art Gallery in Al Fuhais.
- ★ Art exhibition by artists Dr. Ala Bashir and Sa'di Abbas at the Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mahmoud Al-Ubedi at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Al Mi'mar at the Orfali Art Gallery. Telephone 826932.
- ★ Photographic exhibition on nature and the township of Sakab by artist Ghassan 'Aysarah at the Student Affairs Department at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Exhibition of etchings by Mohammad Omar Khalil at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luwethbeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by artist Hussein Dnaseh at the Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ The First International Festival of Fine Arts in Jordan: entitled "Colour and Light in the Nabatean Civilisation" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in Jordan.

DRAMAS

- ★ Children's drama entitled "Aladdin's Lamp" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:30 a.m., 11:00 p.m.

BOOK EXHIBITION

- ★ Comprehensive book and educational aids exhibition at the International Exhibition Hall - University Road.

Jordan Times

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Building of framework

THERE IS increasing talk by Israel about a tripartite accord linking the Jewish state to Jordan and Palestine. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres echoed this sentiment at the opening of the Socialist International in Lisbon a few days ago when he said: "We need this triangle... I can see an agreement between Jordanians and ourselves." Mr. Peres also told his audience that the final aim of the ongoing peace process was "independence for all and to live as real neighbours." The Israeli foreign minister had more than political settlements on his mind when he added that "if you allow independence but you do not allow economic development, it will be a failure."

This new Israeli drive strikes us as premature at best at this stage of the negotiating process. The PLO-Israeli deal still has a long way to go before it can take definite shape and form. Jordan cannot be expected to jump on the bandwagon of normalisation, to the point of signing economic accords, without first testing the Israeli intentions on the ground. Furthermore, the Kingdom cannot at this juncture be more forthcoming and accommodating than it has been on its role in the implementation of the interim part of the PLO-Israeli accord. The self-rule envisioned for the Palestinians should take deeper roots before we can boast of reaching real peace with Israel.

It is common knowledge by now that even this interim self-rule for the Palestinians on the basis of Gaza-Jericho first formula cannot see the light of day without the full cooperation of Jordan. Hence, the close and inevitable link between the fate of the Palestinians and that of their brethren in the Kingdom. But only at the conclusion of the five years of transition period that should lead to greater independence for the Palestinians can Jordan find it feasible and viable to complete the process for comprehensive peace arrangements. If Palestine is to enjoy a commonality of economic interests with both Israel and Jordan, then obviously something needs to be worked out to institutionalise, regulate and control this broader scheme for the Middle East.

Needless to say, all this talk about grand designs for the future in the area is contingent on registering real progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks. True and lasting peace cannot be achieved without participation and full cooperation of Damascus and Beirut. That is why there is a pressing need to deliver on the much awaited breakthrough on the Syrian front as well. Pragmatism and enlightened planning would not exclude the full partnership of Damascus as well in the so-called tripartite order with a view to including both Syria and Lebanon in any future regional economic cooperation. Such a vision for the future cannot succeed if Israel remains selective in its perspective and piecemeal in its approach. The Fertile Crescent concept, incorporating the historical Fertile Crescent states of the area, appears to hold more promise than a mere tripartite framework that may be interpreted as an exclusive club posing a threat on other countries of the Arab World. But this is only one option to contemplate and entertain for the future. There are other frameworks in which peace with justice can survive and prosper to serve the real interests of all the peoples in the region. These frameworks have to be designed, arrived at and agreed upon from within, however. They cannot be imposed from the outside and they certainly cannot be shaped by Israel unilaterally waving its magic wand.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST IN Al Ra'i daily said that the PLO had committed a blunder by accepting the Gaza-Jericho option at a time when it was in its power to continue negotiating with the Israelis and the Americans and achieve immediate self-rule for the whole of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Fahed Fanek said that the American proposal that was earlier rejected by the PLO had provided for better gains for the Palestinians, had the Palestinians accepted the American document, there would not have been any need for the Oslo secret talks and the PLO-Israeli deal that limited self-rule at this stage to Gaza and Jericho alone, added the writer. At the same time, he said, the Palestine National Council did not give the PLO leadership the green light to accept the separate deal with the Israelis in its present form. The only interpretation for the strange behaviour of the PLO leadership at this stage is that the PLO leadership had resorted to the separate deal with Israel in order to save its own skin and not to save Palestine, charged the writer. At the same time, Israel won by securing from this leadership a recognition by the Palestinians of its legitimate existence in the land of Palestine, he added.

A COLUMNIST IN Al Dustour expressed the view that Israel is now trying to achieve, through economic means, hegemony over the Arab region which it had failed to fulfil by military force. Mohammad Kawash said that Israel is planning to impose its hegemony over the Arab and Islamic nations of the region through a peace formula that would entail linking the economies of the region through a network of roads and other for the communication.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Kellani

No more docile, Jordan asserts national interests

THE NET outcome of Jordanian diplomacy spearheaded personally by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in Washington and New York in the past two weeks has totally demolished speculation that the Jordanian role in the Middle East was being marginalised.

If anything, the meeting the Crown Prince had with President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the American president's underlining of the Kingdom's pivotal role in the Middle East and the enthusiastic Arab League endorsement of the Jordanian address to the United Nations General Assembly as an embodiment of the Arab quest for peace as well as the discussions Prince Hassan held with Arab-American leaders have indicated that the Kingdom has restated an undisputed position in the regional and international scene.

Western journalists may even have to scan through their vocabulary to replace their catch-phrase "the small tin-pot Kingdom" to describe Jordan. Indeed we are small, but in the emerging political scenario, Jordan's weight has gone beyond the expectations of many.

No longer does Jordan have to look over its shoulder and wait for others at the expense of its own national interests in the quest for a secure and stable Middle East. Future generations cannot point a finger at Jordan as having sidestepped their interests since the Jordanian approach remains very much within its declared objective of a peace that they could cherish and safeguard.

Indeed, it was a dramatic switch in Jordan's foreign policy while remaining very much within the overall objective of serving the cause of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East as well as Arab national interests.

For decades, Jordan followed a docile foreign policy based on an approach warranted by the geopolitical situation of the Kingdom, the presence of giant neighbours on all sides and limited natural resources. Such a position was imposed on Jordan by the unique nature of the Kingdom's linkage with the Palestinian problem.

While the Palestinian problem was a foreign policy issue for all other Arab countries, Jordan had to live with the reality that its foreign policy considerations had to be essentially drawn up against the backdrop of the international considerations stemming from demography — the presence of a large number of Palestinians on its territory — let alone the fact that the Kingdom suffered whenever the Palestinian cause suffered.

Not that the demographic factor has changed now, but the fact the Middle East peace-making assumed after the groundbreaking Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord cleared the way for Jordan to break free from the constraints imposed on it by its linkage with the political context of the Palestinian problem.

As the events of the last two weeks evidence, a Jordan free from the political chains is in a much better position to stake its

positions and demand reciprocity from the international community. And, sure enough, that is what Jordan has received.

The political gains from the switch towards asserting Jordan's own national interests as an inevitable factor that the international community has to take into considerations in Middle East peace-making by far outweigh the economic benefits that we stand to gain.

For one thing, the courageous step that Prince Hassan undertook under the guidance of His Majesty King Hussein to meet with Mr. Peres has not only reemphasised the role of Jordan as an independent player in the region but also established the fact that the Kingdom can no longer be the target of Likudniks who propagate the "Jordan is Palestine" theory. Jordan is an independent and sovereign kingdom unwittingly drawn into the colonial political game and paid dearly for it. Now, it will not allow itself to be taken for granted (or for a ride as some did try to).

Second, the obvious American acceptance of the fact that there cannot be any realistic move in the peace process without Jordan and Washington's swift action to publicly recognise and elevate Jordan to the centre-stage of Middle Eastern politics as an independent player with its own lines has given a new dimension to the Kingdom's relations with the U.S. (not that the Americans were not aware of the Jordanian role, but it used to be taken for granted for a long time).

By extension, the new American-Jordanian scenario and the newfound Amman-Washington understanding should and would lead to better relations between Jordan and its immediate Arab neighbours. It may not happen overnight, but it is inevitable that the traditional friends of Jordan are publicly in recognition of the fact that they did not treat Jordan and Jordanian fairly over the past three years (Kuwait is a different story and a different kettle of fish of course).

It was no natural turn of events that led to the course Jordanian diplomacy took in the wake of the Israel-PLO accord. It was the result of a careful evaluation of the givens in the political scene and the decision that the time was ripe for Jordan to eliminate its docile image and assert its principled positions vis-a-vis the new world order and the quest for the much-sought-after solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Again, our decision-makers have reaffirmed one simple truth: Jordan can raise itself to the challenges of the day, particularly at a crucial make-or-break phase and when its survival is, rightly or wrongly, put into question by people who have now business to do in the first places.

Now that Jordan has accomplished what it had been trying to accomplish for decades, the path from here is by no means rosy. There will be repercussions from quarters which were taken by surprise by the turn of events. But then, no doubt, it is a calculated risk and the international community, with the U.S. at its forefront, shoulders an unshirkable responsibility towards ensuring that Jordan arrives where it has set forth for.

China image puts it on collision course with West

By David Schlesinger
 Reuter

PEKING — When the West looks at China, it sees an economic superpower challenging world standards on human rights and fair trading and defiantly rejecting international pleas to stop underground nuclear testing.

When China looks at itself, it sees a developing country struggling to give its 1.1 billion people a better life and trying hard to catch up with other nations that have enjoyed many decades of power and prosperity.

These sharply contrasting views of what China is today mean that Peking is on a collision course with the West on many serious issues that are proving extremely difficult to solve, analysts said.

The dilemma was brought into sharp focus again by China's explosion of an underground nuclear device on Tuesday in defiance of western appeals for a moratorium on testing.

That bold reminder of China's status as a nuclear power was chilling to many countries. "They are a developing country, but they are a developing country that is like no other one," said a Western diplomat.

"They have great power ambitions, both within their conception of themselves and within their capacity."

China's statement announcing the test made an issue of the fact that Peking feels it lags far behind the world's nuclear superpowers.

History has shown that a conditional moratorium designed to maintain nuclear superiority, while refusing to renounce nuclear deterrence and commit oneself to complete prohibition and thorough des-

truction of nuclear weapons, is of extremely limited significance," it said.

Chinese officials are fond of saying that the United States has exploded 25 nuclear devices for every one that China has.

Peking meets U.S. attacks on Chinese arms sales by saying that Washington is one of the world's biggest arms merchants.

"The official doesn't let the common man light a lamp but he himself burns down houses," runs a traditional proverb that often appears in official commentaries defending China's record against western attacks.

Similarly, when the West blasts Peking's human rights record, attacking its treatment of political opponents, China responds by saying that at this stage in its development the right to survival is the human right that matters most to Chinese people.

And in trade disputes, from market opening to copyright protection, China often asks for special dispensation because it is still developing its economy.

"These are all part of the same picture," said another Western diplomat. "Especially when there is so much pressure all at once over so many issues, it would be impossible for a Chinese leader to back down when national pride is at stake."

When western attacks on its human rights record helped scuttle China's bid to host the 2000 Olympics, a something the Communist Party had staked its pride on — it only hardened the resolve of government leaders to develop the country in their own way, diplomats believe.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Russians killed in the name of democracy with backing by the West

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The bloody events in Moscow dominated the topics in the local press in the past week, but the Middle East developments, the situation in Somalia and domestic issues were also given due coverage.

Writing under the title "Black Monday in Moscow", Al Ra'i daily said in an editorial that it was a sad conclusion for the democracy in Russia and a triumph for the U.S.-led western nations which praised the act of terrorism against the representatives of the people.

The world watched in horror while the tanks and the guns went into action against the voice of the Russians, but were more appalled by the western praise accorded to Boris Yeltsin who assassinated the fledgling democracy in his country, added the daily.

Hamadeh Faraaneh, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that now that Mr. Yeltsin has slaughtered democracy and stifled the voice of the people, with backing from the western nations, the West cannot dare claim anymore that it backs democracy or respect of the people's right to determine their own future and destiny.

The writer said that Mr. Yeltsin should be ashamed of his actions against his own people and their representatives and the West ought to be ashamed of its double-standard policies.

Even if Mr. Yeltsin succeeds in imposing his rule by sheer military force, the situation in Russia will not regain its stability and democracy will not be reborn for a long time to come, said Mohammad Kharoub in Al Ra'i daily.

In the wake of the massacre, Mr. Yeltsin's position will be shaky and there is no doubt that underground forces, including military factions, will turn against the president sooner or later, said the writer.

"Moscow under a new Stalin" read the title of a column in Al Dustour by Mohammad Kawash. The columnist said that the crisis in Russia is essentially an economic one and Mr. Yeltsin, like his predecessor, dictator Stalin, would never be able to find proper solutions and appease his people.

Mr. Yeltsin has succeeded in stifling the voice of the

people for some time, but he can never escape their wrath although he is now enjoying the support of the western nations for his dictatorial powers, added the writer.

Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour, said it is surprising to see and hear the western nations supporting the Russian president at a time when these countries never stop bragging about their false support for democracy.

Washington and its allies realise that Mr. Yeltsin is blinded by his lust for power and that he is striving to become emperor or tsar through the so-called reforms he has been advocating, said the writer. Indeed, Washington wants Mr. Yeltsin to rule so that he can protect America's own interests and that Russia remain in the pay of the western nations.

Mr. Yeltsin has now completed the mission of his predecessor, Mikhail Gorbachev, by subjugating the Russian people to the whims and desires of the western nations, said Mohammad Daoudieh in Al Dustour.

What happened in Moscow is a continuation of the imposition of the western hegemony through agents working against the interests of the Russian people, said the writer.

He said that the Russian events should give the Arabs a good lesson and open the eyes of the Arab masses and their leaders to the fact that only through democracy can a country find stability and security.

Once again the western nations which supported the massacre in Russia prove to the world that they are anti-freedom and anti-democracy, said Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily. The bloody events in Moscow have once again showed the world that Washington and its allies continue to support dictatorship against the interests of the masses and are never inclined to support any genuine move towards democracy in other nations around the world, he added.

By massacring the representatives of the people, the writer added, Mr. Yeltsin has opted for a long and bloody civil war which can only be detrimental to his country.

Backed by the western nations, Mr. Yeltsin has suc-

ceeded for the time being to stifle the voice of the Russian people, but this state of affairs is not bound to last for long, said Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i.

By murdering democracy, Mr. Yeltsin has his hands stained with blood and it will be most difficult for the president to retain his seat and impossible for the western media to support a dictator from now on, said the writer. One day, he said, the opposition forces would rally behind a strong leader and topple the dictator.

Fahed Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, tackled the question of ending the Arab boycott against Israel, stressing that the Arabs would be committing a blunder if they take such a step.

The writer said that such a serious move can only be taken after a permanent peace has been established, serving justice to all the parties in the region. We cannot commit economic suicide, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said in Washington, by allowing the Israelis to reap the fruit of their agreements with the Arabs before agreeing to a lasting and honourable peace for all, said the writer.

If America is in a hurry to force Jordan to be committed to peace, it has only to convince Israel to do its own share in ensuring that peace will be durable and just, demanded the writer.

Sawt Al Shaab daily demanded that Jordan be helped to overcome its economic difficulties and be compensated for its hosting the refugees and for its contribution to peace.

We want a kind of peace that would deal with issues of development, unemployment, water, security and territory, a comprehensive and just peace that would serve justice to all, said the paper.

The U.S. administration, noted the paper, has expressed support for a move to reduce the burdens on Jordan and it is just, right and timely for the world community to take this seriously and help the Kingdom move ahead towards the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

A writer in Al Ra'i said that all parties in the Middle East are bound to gain from peace, provided it is just and



lasting. Yousef Bouran said that peace with Israel will save the Arabs a fortune, that otherwise would have been spent on armament, but most importantly, peace would not justify the existence of martial or semi-martial and dictatorial rule in many Arab countries.

All justifications for autocratic rule now prevailing in the Arab World would vanish and more development projects would mushroom everywhere once genuine peace has been established, added the writer.

It is naive to describe the peace offers available to the Arabs as genuine peace, said Tareq Masarweh. Peace coming from Israel and the United States is one that can only ensure the interests of these enemies and not those of the Arab Nation and would only guarantee Israeli hegemony over the destiny of the Arab Nation, said the writer.

Israel and the United States are motivated by the desire to impose their economic hegemony on the Arab World and so they are offering the Arabs a kind of peace that will not take into consideration the interests of the Palestinians and the Arab countries at large.

Scores of U.N. resolutions issued since 1947 have granted the Palestinian refugees the right of return, said Mohammad Qudah, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily.

The coming talks between

the Palestinian and the Israelis should not ignore this fact nor should anything distract the Palestinian negotiators from insisting that these resolutions be implemented, demanded the writer.

It should be noted here, said the writer, that while Israel is taking adamant stands with regard to repatriating the refugees, it is going on with its programme of settling new Jewish immigrants on occupied Arab lands.

After Vietnam and Lebanon, the United States is bogged down in Somalia where its forces have been sustaining heavy losses for their occupation of the African country, said Al Dustour daily.

The paper said that the current reappraisal of the U.S. military presence in Somalia by the U.S. Congress and Senate could be the start of the final chapter of America's presence in the African nation where the declared purpose of its presence has been to provide aid to the starving population.

It seems, after all, that the U.S. marines who invaded Somalia did not go there to give aid to the starving people, but rather to achieve a military and political objective in the Horn of Africa, said Mohammad Kawash in Al Dustour.

The writer said that American forces are in the Horn of Africa to threaten Sudan,

and the Americans are living a real nightmare in their fight against General Aidede.

Fahed Al Fanek criticised the government for increasing the number of members in the National Consultative Economic Council, noting that 30 members are bound to differ and no consensus can be reached when they meet to solve economic issues.

The council, which was first founded under the government of Zeid Rifai, grouping a limited number of economists, has now been enlarged by the present government with no positive results predictable, said the writer. He said that the previous council failed to take appropriate measures to deal with economic ills and it is feared that the present council, with numerous and different views, would end up in total paralysis.

Nazih Qusous, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, called on the Amman mayor to visit the eastern districts of Amman and see by himself the waste water and dirt floating in the streets and the alleys and not to be content with visiting the fashionable districts in western Amman.

The writer said that the lives of the children of the eastern districts of Amman are endangered by the continued and persisting presence of dirt and waste water and it is high time for the municipality to move fast and deal with the situation.

Forgotten Greek island dreams of better times under socialists

By Dina Kyriakidou
Reuters

CASTELLORIZO, Greece — "Europe starts here" says the sign at the picturesque port, welcoming the few visitors who venture to the most remote of the Greek islands.

Centuries-old waterfront houses with bright paintwork and ornate ironwork testify to past riches. They stand like a stage set, hiding the ruins of the German bombing that almost flattened the island in 1943.

In 1910 Castellorizo had a population of 14,000 and about 180 sailing ships. Now about 200 people live here permanently and a few wooden fishing boats rock next to foreign luxury yachts that moor here for the night.

Six hours by boat from the tourist island of Rhodes but only 20 minutes from the Turkish town of Kashi, the island known in ancient Greek as "Megisti" — the biggest — smuggles in most of its fruit, vegetables and meat from Turkey.

General elections scheduled for Oct. 10 have caused little excitement. Few islanders believe a change of government in Athens can provide long-term solutions to their troubles.

"Unless someone actually picks it up and moves it closer to the mainland, the island will always have problems," said Maria Mayafi who works at the family taverna.

But some of its most pressing ones, such as lack of water and of frequent and cheap transport, can be helped by a willing government, she said.

The days of the 1981-1989 socialist government are remembered fondly on Castellorizo, which traditionally votes for the Socialist Party (PASOK).

"PASOK built the airport, the medical centre, it started building houses for the homeless and upgraded the port," Ms. Mayafi said. "It even gave a free deep freezer and sewing machine to every family."

"PASOK built the airport, the medical centre, it started building houses for the homeless and upgraded the port. It even gave a free deep freezer and sewing machine to every family."

Asked to remember any of the good things that the conservative government has done in the past three years, Ms. Mayafi says: "It brought us a music concert two years ago."

The new democracy government began installing a digital telephone network this year and had approved funds to finish the construction of much needed housing.

Just like Greeks elsewhere

who have suffered more than three years of economic austerity, people on Castellorizo say the government has done too little too late.

Promises of creating a passport control office have not yet materialised. Tourists from Turkey cannot spend the night on the island and the daily trip for food and basics often means outrunning the Greek navy patrol boat to avoid arrest.

The patrol boat makes nightly trips to stop Kurds and Iraqis from crossing illegally to seek asylum in Europe. It sometimes intercepts Greek fishing boats full of tomatoes and grapes bought in Kashi.

Few on the island are prepared to give the conservatives a second chance. Most remember when the boat from Rhodes was free, when the ship from Piraeus would come twice a week and the island looked clean and well-kept.

"It has never looked so dirty and run-down in all the years I visited," said an Australian whose parents left the island after the war and who has returned to fix up the family house.

A recent opinion poll showed the socialists leading with 44.5 per cent support and the conservatives down to 32.4 per cent from 47 per cent they won in the 1990 election.

Praised by international organisations for cutting inflation, privatising state firms and taking steps to limit chronic deficits, the government's tight economic policies have had a heavy political cost.

Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis has even hired a team of U.S. campaign advisers

to improve his popularity and help him persuade voters a bright economic future awaits Greece.

The secretary of the local PASOK branch, which has four members, said a socialist victory would shake up the conservative mayor and revive his interest in improving Castellorizo.

"This island never votes conservative. The mayor told us he was running as an independent but after the election we found out from state television that he had been supported by new democracy," said Manolis Matsos, a 60-year-old fisherman.

He said that, with PASOK in power, things would change for the better but his 90-year-old mother Maria Matsou disagreed. "Nobody has ever cared much about Castellorizo," she said.



Morrison an 'avenging angel' against U.S. racism

By Arthur Spiegelman
Reuters

NEW YORK — She has been described as an "avenging angel" remembering and recording the tragic legacy of slavery and segregation and in her books horrible things happen — a mother kills her two-year-old daughter and a wife slashes the face of her husband's dead mistress.

As of Thursday, "avenging angel" Toni Morrison, a 62-year-old African-American woman writer widely popular among critics and readers, has another title — winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize for Literature.

The Nobel committee hailed Mr. Morrison for giving life to "an essential aspect of American reality" — its racism — and attempting to liberate the American language from "the fetters of race."

Ms. Morrison, awoken early by a colleague at Princeton University where she teaches, declared herself delighted because, "the most wonderful thing for me personally is to know that the prize has at last been awarded to an African-American."

And she thanked God that her mother was alive to share in the thrill of the award.

In an interview with Reuters, Mrs. Morrison says she can't quite agree with the comparison to an "avenging angel."

"It makes me sound larger than what I am. I don't have a sword and I don't want to redress wrongs. I want to alter the language and rid it of a



Toni Morrison

certain portion (its racism) and fill the void with the voice of black women. It is a risky business."

Born February 18, 1931, the second of four children to George and Ramah Wofford in Lorain, Ohio, Ms. Morrison was both a child of the depression and of segregation, growing up "with more than a child's contempt for white people."

Her mother, a strong-willed woman who Mr. Morrison said would write the president "if there were maggots in our flour," believed that relations between blacks and whites would eventually improve. But her father distrusted "every word and every gesture of ev-

ery white man on earth."

Ms. Morrison attended multi-racial schools as a child in Ohio and the all-black Howard University in Washington, D.C.

At Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, she won an advanced degree in English literature, specialising in the novels of William Faulkner, a white American from the south of great poetic power, who many critics have compared her work to. Faulkner won the Nobel Prize in 1949.

She is the author of six novels, all of which have racism and liberation from racism as their themes.

"Racism and oppression do extraordinary things. And you

have to accommodate yourself to certain kinds of excesses and distortions," she told USA Today newspaper last year after the publication of her latest novel, "Jazz," in which a woman slashes the face of her dead husband's mistress as her body lies in a coffin at a funeral home.

The novel, written much the way a jazz melody is developed with its theme disappearing and returning in different voices, is a tale of the great migration of black people in the 1920s from the segregated south to the impoverished north.

In her most popular novel, "Beloved," which won the 1988 Pulitzer Prize, a slave kills her two-year-old child so that she will not grow up a slave. The novel is filled with the horrors of slavery — kidnappings, rapes and beatings, realities too powerful for the slaves themselves to tell.

USA Today critic Deirdre Donahue called Ms. Morrison, "An avenging angel" for books like "Beloved."

Ms. Morrison says she is trying to break the code of race as it appears in American literature, where white writers impose their own clichés on blacks, giving them a sinister quality of life that beggars the reality that it is class — not race — that is the problem.

"The word 'blacks' is used to mean poverty. This plays into America's willingness to dismiss anything that is considered a 'black' problem, like welfare and public schools," she said in the USA Today interview.

Serbia's welcome for refugee kinsfolk is wearing thin

By Helen Smith
Reuters

BELGRADE — A Serbian maxim that "any guest is enough after three days" was ignored without hesitation as refugees from the wars in Croatia and Bosnia began arriving in Serbia in 1991.

Thousands of people opened their homes to relatives and strangers.

But as the wars in former Yugoslavia drag into a third year, animosity is growing towards the 500,000 refugees.

Many people in Serbia, reduced to poverty by the country's economic collapse, deeply resent the handouts refugees receive from aid agencies and the government.

They complain that refugees cause overcrowding on trains and buses and say they aggravate the food shortages in the

shops.

The refugees receive regular food parcels, clothing and washing materials from aid agencies. They travel free on public transport and their medicines and medical care are paid for by the government.

A Bosnian or Croatian accent now often provokes shouts of "why don't you go home?"

Refugees say some shopkeepers refuse to serve them.

"The Serbs here are worse than the Muslims in Bosnia," said a Serb refugee from Sarajevo. "They say 'you are given everything when we have lost everything.' About 95 per cent of the refugees live with Serbian families, a proportion surpassing that in any other country that has taken in refugees."

One man opened his tiny home on the banks of the

River Drina to 24 refugees on a single night when 7,000 people fled fighting in Bosnia, some swimming, some crowding into tiny boats.

This spectacular show of hospitality was made partly because many ethnic Serbs from Bosnia and Croatia have relatives in Serbia.

"Most families have become frustrated at living in overcrowded conditions and resentful about the help the refugees get while they themselves face hunger and sickness."

Many hosts have asked their guests to leave. The Red Cross and Serbia's Commission for Refugees, which are jointly responsible for housing refugees, say people rarely offer to take in people displaced by the wars.

"Many people thought the war would not last for long and they took on obligations they

could not handle," said Julija Kotal, spokeswoman for the Belgrade Red Cross.

Bosko Vojvodic, Serbia's deputy commissioner for refugees, estimates he will have to find an extra 130,000 places in refugee camps next year for people turned out by host families.

"A lot of people are cancel-

ling their hospitality," he said. Refugees receive food such as pasta and sugar rarely seen on the bare shelves of Serbian shops, increasing the resentment of local people struggling to survive in an economy ruled by the black market.

Even when food is available, few can afford to buy it. The average monthly salary of around 16 will purchase about a kilo of meat.

Up to half of Serbia's working population is out of work and many of those who still have jobs are not regularly paid.

Some refugees sell their aid handouts, raising about 30 German marks (\$18.50) for the contents of a single food package.

Ms. Kotal says she gets regular visits from hosts asking whether their refugee guests have been getting their aid packages — the refugees are advised to share their handouts with their hosts.

Resentment is fuelled by gangs of young Bosnian men who make their living on the streets of Serbia's towns and cities, selling black market cigarettes or changing dinars for marks.

To many people in Serbia these youths are deserters who should be fighting with the Serb side in Bosnia or Croatia. The Red Cross, already overburdened with feeding and housing the steady flow of refugees into Serbia, now has the additional task of cleaning up the image of the refugees.

"We are constantly trying to

persuade people that refugees are not all war profiteers, money changers or avoiding the army," Ms. Kotal says with a shrug that suggests most people are proving hard to convince.

Serbian animosity towards the refugees dates in part from before the war, when Croatia and Slovenia were wealthier than the Yugoslav republics. Serbs envied the higher standard of living of their ethnic kin in Croatia and considered them snobs.

The resentment has lingered even against refugees who have lost all their possessions in the war.

Serbs complain of a culture clash with Bosnian refugees who have a more relaxed approach to life.

Some Bosnian Serbs living with families in Serbia infuriate their hosts with their irregular hours and mealtimes and habit of entertaining visitors at odd hours.

The Arab oil embargo — a nightmare etched on the West's mind

By Nicholas Moore
Reuters

LONDON — Twenty years after the 1973 Arab oil embargo the nightmare that the pumps might run dry remains etched on the western mind. It has never happened. But only the bravest oil company executives rule out a new oil "shock" before the century ends.

Only recently, worry about Russian oil sales as unrest flared in Moscow sent petroleum futures prices skipping higher.

And Russian exports of some two million barrels daily are a mere trickle compared with more than 15 million — a fifth of global supply — that is produced in the volatile Middle East.

Saudi Arabia's King Faisal reluctantly sanctioned the Arab embargo of 20 years ago, to punish the West for its support of Israel in the Middle East war that began on Oct. 6, 1973.

Prices quadrupled. In fact, the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was never the greedy cartel portrayed by western media. The Saudis soon turned up their taps again to tame the ambitions of OPEC pricing "hawks" led by the late Shah of Iran.

And the present Saudi oil minister, Hisham Nazer, insists that western concern about security of supply is an unfortunate hangover "living with us from the distant past."

Notably, Arabs and Israelis are now making peace. On the other hand, two further oil "shocks" since 1973 have scourged the global eco-

nomy. Neither had to do with the Arab-Israeli conflict. Also, in neither case was supply ever actually throttled.

Fear that it might be was again the spur. In 1979-80, panic-buying led by the Japanese took prices to all-time highs above \$40 per barrel on fear that the Islamic revolution that overthrew the Shah might reach Saudi Arabia.

In 1990, prices again reached \$40 (they are around \$17 now) after Iraq invaded fellow OPEC founder-member Kuwait. The fear then was that Iraqi missiles might strike the Saudi oilfields.

On one view, the 1990 episode suggested that the world has learned how to manage crises in the oil markets. Prices took only days rather than years to retreat from the fear-inspired highs.

The earlier "shocks" had led to the West setting up the Paris-based international energy agency which monitors required minimum stock levels. Stocks now total nearly 100 days of forward supply in the industrial nations.

Also, OPEC contract prices these days are aligned in part on quotes in the new, more transparent, petroleum futures markets that have emerged since the end of the 1970s. Futures tend to overreact to the fear factor. But they also drop quickly when the worries abate.

"It dropped \$10 in hours when it was clear that allied air attacks on Iraq in operation Desert Storm were a success," recalls Peter Gignoux, head of the London Energy Desk at Smith Barney Shearson, who was awake through that frantic

night. Further, it is also apparent that governments, whatever their politics, badly need money. One-time OPEC "hawk" Iran has lately conceded that it has been exceeding its output quota.

OPEC-watchers, however, also sound a note of caution. "You may want to sell your oil," said Nauman Barakat, a vice-president for energy futures with Merrill Lynch. "But there is always a danger that in a violent overthrow of a government, things get out of hand."

Mehdi Varzi, who follows OPEC for Kleinwort Benson Securities, adds that past oil "shocks" have been caused as much by fundamentals of supply and demand as by the politically inspired fear factor.

"Oil demand was soaring in 1973," he said. "The Arab embargo was just a trigger for what would have happened anyway."

Mr. Varzi notes that demand for OPEC oil, which was depressed by high prices in the 1970s, is now rebounding. "If Iraq had invaded Kuwait later on in the demand cycle prices might have stayed up for longer," he said.

For its part, OPEC itself insists that its concern is stable supply at fair prices, not holding the world to ransom.

But it sees an irony that the West's residual fear of a cut-off may, in fact, heighten the risk that one may happen. New western taxes, it argues, designed to curb demand for imported oil, may discourage producers from investing the huge sums that are needed to increase their output capacity.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S POSITION The Jordanian-American Commission for Educational Exchange

The newly established Jordanian-American Commission for Educational Exchange (The Fulbright Commission), Amman, Jordan, invites applications from Jordanian and American citizens for the position of executive director.

The Commission is a non-profit, bi-national entity responsible for administering a complex programme of international academic exchange between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United States of America.

The successful candidate must be fluent in English and familiar with Arabic, have strong oral and written communication skills, be thoroughly conversant with the educational systems of the two countries, and hold an earned PhD. He or she must have at least five years' experience in a senior academic/financial managerial position (preferable in a cross-cultural, Arab-American environment) and at least two years' experience living in the Arab World (for a Jordanian applicant, two years' experience living in the United States). Working knowledge of the policies and procedures of the Fulbright Programme and experience in multi/bilateral organisations are desirable.

Duties will include, but not be limited to, the management of all aspects of the Commission's operation — administrative, financial, personnel and public relations. Candidates must be effective when interacting with Jordanian and American government officials and academics and be able to guide the implementation of an international exchange programme that meets the changing needs of both countries, ensuring that the Commission fulfills the legislative intent and purposes of the bilateral agreement.

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Chinese banks squeeze big firms

THE Daily Crossword

by James Barrick

ACROSS

- 1 Occurrence
- 3 Fast the absence of
- 9 Leslie Caron role
- 13 Turn away
- 15 Jail
- 19 Mild explosive
- 17 Baking activity
- 20 Farm animal
- 21 Household help
- 22 Condition caused by a certain overexposure
- 23 Rictus
- 24 Budgetist: people
- 25 Apple
- 28 Snoods
- 33 Oak-to-be
- 34 Atmosphere
- 35 Altar constellation
- 36 Officer of state
- 40 Dr. letters
- 41 Oklahoma city
- 42 Clergyman's house

- 43 Material for cattle
- 46 Combat
- 47 Liquid mass
- 48 Rant
- 49 Cast too far
- 52 Agents wrongdoing
- 53 Motorboard
- 56 Translator's force
- 59 Wallaway
- 60 Wading bird
- 61 Kovacs or Pyle
- 62 Hove's buffets
- 64 Bright sign

DOWN

- 1 Eatery
- 2 Decare
- 3 Dried out
- 4 Pseudonym
- 5 The proportion
- 6 The moon
- 6 "— Three Lives"
- 7 Wind
- 8 Instrument, for short
- 9 Palermo native
- 9 Critics to
- 10 Agents wrongdoing
- 10 Fire: pref.
- 11 Falls behind
- 12 Footnote word
- 14 Kettledrums
- 15 Cats to have
- 15 White with age
- 22 Sages
- 25 More secure
- 26 Image: pref.
- 27 Traditional customs
- 29 Damp
- 29 Not damp
- 31 "Lack Sprat could —"
- 31 Lock
- 32 Asian garment
- 34 A.C. word
- 37 Of a science
- 38 Enriched
- 38 Weakens

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

- 44 A going out
- 45 Dry riverbed
- 46 Kilo
- 48 Collect
- 49 In the twining — eye
- 50 Grand alarm
- 51 Times
- 52 Smooth-talking
- 53 Woody star
- 54 Exchange premium
- 55 Hammer part
- 57 Struts up
- 58 Slog

Georgia joins CIS as Yeltsin meets with Caucasus leaders

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze announced Friday that Georgia would join the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), after he and other Transcaucasian leaders met here with President Boris Yeltsin in a bid to end the bloodshed in their troubled region.

In a joint statement issued after their meeting, Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Shevardnadze and the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan vowed to seek the help of international organisations to restore peace in their countries.

Georgia's decision to join the Russian-dominated alliance grouping most of the 15 former Soviet republics comes just two weeks after the same move by Azerbaijan, another state in the Transcaucasus wracked by war and economic hardship.

Georgia's entrance into the CIS would theoretically allow Tbilisi to call on Russian troops to defend its borders under a 1992 collective security treaty. But the membership must still be approved by the Georgian parliament.

Mr. Shevardnadze had

stated once before his readiness to join the CIS as rebel separatists in Georgia's Abkhazia region were about to seize the local capital Sukhumi.

But he rejected the move after Russia refused to send troops in to quash the rebels' advance and the city fell, followed by most of the rest of Abkhazia.

On Thursday Mr. Shevardnadze was quoted by Interfax as declaring: "I have decided to present Georgia's membership in the CIS... I am sure that this step will benefit Georgia."

With Georgian membership, the CIS would group all the former Soviet republics except the three Baltic states and Moldova, whose president strongly supports membership but whose parliament has not yet ratified the move.

In a joint statement released by the Kremlin, leaders of Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia agreed "on the need to take urgent steps to end the bloodshed and restore peace to the Transcaucasus."

The region has been a hotbed of ethnic conflicts in-

cluding a five-year undeclared war between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, the war in Abkhazia and smaller conflicts in South Ossetia, Ingushetia and Chechnya.

The leaders proclaimed their "resolve to act in strict accordance with the goals and principles of the U.N." and in line with the mediation efforts of the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

"The participants at the meeting envisage a way out of the crisis situation in the Caucasus through coordination of efforts... and the implementation of measures aimed at ending the armed conflicts," the joint statement said.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian described the talks between the four leaders as "absolutely open," adding that much of the discussion focused on Georgia.

Armenia signed the collective security treaty at a CIS summit meeting in Tashkent in May 1992 and was a founding member of the CIS following the collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991.

The four leaders also discussed restoring the main railway line of the Transcaucasus, linking the western Georgian city of Poti to the Azerbaijani capital of Baku, via Tbilisi and Yerevan, news agencies said.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev and Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev also attended the meeting, news agencies said.

Meanwhile, rebels fighting to overthrow Mr. Shevardnadze killed five Russian soldiers early Thursday in the west of the crisis-ridden republic, a Russian military commander said.

General Boris Dzhukov, deputy commander of the Russian army in the Caucasus, said the five were ambushed in the town of Khoni by rebels fighting for former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, ousted in a revolt in January 1992.

The ambush apparently reflected a "backlash of anti-Russian feelings in Georgia after last week's rout of government forces in the Black Sea region of Abkhazia despite a



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (left) welcomes his Georgian counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze during a meeting at the Kremlin Friday (AFP photo)

Moscow-brokered truce. Georgia has accused Russia of helping separatists in Abkhazia to break away, a charge Moscow denies.

Mr. Shevardnadze, fighting for his political survival, has now dropped his earlier charges against Russia.

The pro-Gamsakhurdia fighters also seized a Russian armoured personnel carrier during the attack in Khoni. They have captured nine

Council of Europe opens summit

VIENNA (AFP) — Political turmoil in Russia, war in the former Yugoslavia and the rights of ethnic minorities headed the agenda Friday as leaders from 32 European states opened a two-day East-West summit.

They gathered the first top-level meeting of the Council of Europe since it was formed 44 years ago to protect human rights in a now-bygone of cold war tensions.

Now the Council, based in Strasbourg, France, is trying to address the volatile mosaic of ethnic and nationalist tensions that is plaguing efforts to build a new economic and security order in Europe.

Officials said the conference centerpiece would be a Vienna Declaration on Peace and Stability in Europe, including the question of human rights.

But the gathering was also expected to produce statements of support for Russia's democratic reforms and perhaps a new appeal for action to end the suffering in the former Yugoslavia.

As the meeting opened, Russian President Boris Yeltsin renewed his country's call for admission into the club of democratic nations following his showdown Monday with Moscow hardliners.

Mr. Yeltsin sent a message here lobbying for Russian membership in the Council of Europe, citing what he called Moscow's "irreversible policy of reforms and democratic transformations."

Countries such as France were expected to press for a strong statement on the 18-month-old conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina which Western diplomacy has been helpless to resolve.

On Thursday, French President Francois Mitterrand called on the European Community (EC), the United Nations and other groups to take urgent measures to ensure the delivery of relief supplies for war victims.

Mr. Mitterrand also blamed the continuing bloodshed on the EC's delay in ratifying the Maastricht Treaty aimed at creating a common foreign policy and fostering eventual defence cooperation.

Spoletto trims programme for '94

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — The Spoletto Festival U.S.A., which has lost money for two straight years, will present fewer performances during the 1994 season, the arts festival has announced. The festival, founded by composer Gian Carlo Menotti, will be cut to 12 days and around 100 events. Last year's festival presented 118 performances during a 17-day run. "This is a step on the road to meeting our financial challenges," Marcus Overton, the festival's executive director, said. "Far from being in trouble, we are responding in a responsible way."

Mr. Overton said cutting the festival by five days would save at least \$500,000. Next year's budget is expected to be about \$3.8 million. "Because of the economic slump that is everywhere, everybody is cutting down on things. I don't think it is time for us to celebrate in an extravagant way," Mr. Menotti told the Associated Press by telephone from Monte Carlo. "We can do a beautiful festival within two weeks. That way we can save an awful lot of expense. I'm just following the general trend to be very careful for one year," he said. This year's deficit was about \$790,000. The 1992 deficit was \$536,000, some of which has been retired, Mr. Menotti said. Mr. Overton said the books were being audited and complete figures would be released during the Spoletto board meeting in New York next month.

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Ireland sees peace closer despite extremists

DUBLIN (Agencies) — The Irish government described a nationalist peace effort in Northern Ireland as a possible first step towards ending 25 years of guerrilla warfare in the British province.

But Protestant extremists, determined to prevent union with predominantly Catholic Ireland, warned that they would intensify attacks aimed at disrupting the negotiations.

Nationalist politician John Hume briefed the Irish government Thursday about his five-month mission to try to persuade the guerrilla Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, to lay down its arms.

Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds told reporters afterwards: "John Hume gave us a document setting out the broad principles... which all of us agree could be a just and a lasting peace process to be established and worked upon."

But an outlawed Protestant guerrilla group, the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), said a night of violence Wednesday in which a 20-year-old Catholic man was shot dead in a bar in West Belfast was a "direct response" to Mr. Hume's secret talks.

It also said it carried out a bomb attack on the offices of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, in view of the talks between Mr. Hume, leader of Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), and Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams.

SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon said the UFF's link between the killing of the Catholic man and the Hume-Adams talks was a "spurious excuse," adding: "They are using the talks as a peg on which to hang their blood-stained hat."

Dublin's warmer-than-expected endorsement of the dialogue between Mr. Hume and Sinn Fein revived speculation after years of violent deadlock in the disputed province.

Mr. Adams welcomed what he called a positive response from Dublin. "I note and welcome their statement particularly because it appears we are going to make some progress," he told a news conference at Sinn Fein's Dublin office.

Meanwhile, a judge dismissed charges Thursday against three police officers accused of conspiring to pervert the course of justice in an IRA bombing case. He ruled that intense publicity made a fair trial impossible.

The prosecution of the officers followed the Court of Appeals decision in 1991 to free six men convicted of killing 21 people in two bombings in Birmingham in 1974. In reversing the convictions, the court said that police had lied.

"There has been extensive publicity and comment since the 1991 appeal in which these defendants have been reportedly represented as having committed offenses with which they are now charged," Justice Patrick Garland said Thursday at a hearing in the Old Bailey criminal court.

Bosnian focus shifts to fighting 'barbarism'

SARAJEVO (R) — Fresh allegations of barbarities in former Yugoslavia overshadowed peace efforts as Bosnia's president said Muslims could never accept the latest Geneva plan to end the violence.

U.N. officials accused Croats of conducting a "scorched earth" policy against Serb villages in Croatia and said they had also mistreated Muslims in the disputed Bosnian city of Mostar.

Fighting was reported in central Bosnia and shelling and sniping was noticeably more intense in the republic's besieged capital, Sarajevo, which had recently enjoyed relative peace.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, addressing the U.N. General Assembly in New York Thursday, explained why his Muslim-dominated parliament had effectively rejected a peace plan dividing Bosnia into three ethnic states.

He said the republic was being subjected to "political vivisection" and repeated demands that the Serbs and Croats must give back more land than promised under the peace package.

"The unjust peace plan is flawed because it is based upon the repugnant and historically failed concept of ethnic partition and apartheid," he said. Mr. Izetbegovic told reporters later that the United States would have to take part in any

NATO force charged with implementing a peace accord in Bosnia. "As the only superpower left, America cannot escape its obligations," he said.

In Croatia, officials of the U.N. peacekeeping force accused Croat troops of shooting or burning to death Serb villagers and razing their communities in a well-planned "scorched earth" incursion over a U.N. ceasefire line last month.

UNPROFOR spokeswoman Shannon Boyd cited evidence of indiscriminate "intentional killing of Serb civilians" unable to flee the offensive "regardless of their age, sex or status." Many victims seemed to have been old women, she said.

Croatia's Defence and National Security Council said the government was awaiting results of its own inquiry into the allegations.

In Bosnia, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Ray Wilkinson, said Bosnian Croats had expelled more Muslims from the Croat-held sector of Mostar.

He said the Croats rounded up 530 Muslim civilians and evicted them across the front line, forcing them to cross the dangerous no-man's land dividing the city.

The Bosnian army, in a statement reported on Sarajevo Radio, said it had found three mass graves containing 575 bodies near Mostar.

Nuclear test ban vital — N. Zealand premier

WELLINGTON (AFP) — New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger said Friday that continuing the informal nuclear-test ban was "absolutely vital," in response to reports that France might resume its testing program in the South Pacific.

"Such restraint is particularly important to create the right atmosphere for the start of negotiations aimed at achieving a formal global cessation of nuclear testing, an objective (to which) New Zealand has long attached enormous importance," Mr. Bolger said in a statement.

The statement came days after China became the first nation in a year to conduct a nuclear test, which analysts said could prompt France to follow suit.

Mr. Bolger said he was encouraged that it was not French President Francois Mitterrand who was suggesting an immediate resumption of nuclear testing at France's Mururoa Atoll, which is about 5,000 kilometres (3,000 miles) northeast of New Zealand.

But French Defence Minister Francois Leotard indicated this week that his nation may soon have to resume testing.

However, a spokesman at the French embassy here said Friday that Mr. Leotard's comments were made in the context of presenting his budget.

This budget had to make financial provisions for tests until any formal ban was introduced, the spokesman said.

"The resumption of nuclear testing, or not, at Mururoa will be a political decision from the highest level of the state, which is President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur," the spokesman said.

Government troops have advanced to within 10 kilometres of Anlong Veng from the south and west, but the advance was slowed by rain and resulting muddy road conditions, one Western diplomatic source said.

"I would call it quite significant," he said.

Deputy Defence Minister General Tea Banh told AFP that about five divisions of unspecified strengths were involved in the fighting, and that troops captured two villages, Cheung and Otapao, defending

S. African soldiers kill 5 youths in raid on 'rebel base'

PRETORIA (AFP) — South African troops killed five black youths from the same family, aged between 12 and 19, when they raided the home of a member of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) Friday in Transkei, the PAC said.

The South African Defence Force (SADF) claimed the house in the black homeland of Umtata was a base for the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), the PAC's guerrilla army headquarters in Tanzania.

An SADF statement said five people were killed in the dawn raid in the nominally independent homeland after they "offered resistance," but did not give the ages of the dead.

PAC Deputy President Johnson Mlambo said the victims — 16-year-old twins, their 12-year-old brother and two cousins, aged 19 and 12 — were asleep when they were shot in the head with Uzi sub-machine guns.

"There exists no evidence whatsoever that there was resistance from the sleeping schoolchildren," he said at a press conference.

"The house was never an APLA base. There were no weapons in the house nor any files belonging to the PAC or APLA."

PAC spokesman Waters Tobe said the father of the three brothers, Siso Mpendulo, was the owner of the house and a member of the PAC, but that he and his wife were away at the time of the raid.

Mr. Mpendulo told the South African Press Association in Umtata that his children and their cousins had no links with the PAC.

A correspondent for the East Cape News Agency (ECNA) reported that the bodies of the five victims were laid out in the blood-spattered lounge of the home. A trail of blood led to a bedroom and there were signs that the front door had been forced open.

ing the Anlong Veng stronghold. "The Khmer Rouge are attacking throughout the area, and the government is pushing them back," the general said.

He did not have casualty figures. The diplomatic sources said the attack last week as part of its declared policy of using both military and diplomatic means to counter the Khmer Rouge.

Reports from Thailand indicated that Cambodian troops hoped to seize the area by Sunday.

Anlong Veng, with about 1,500 guerrillas defending, is one of the most fortified areas of Cambodia. General Ta Mok directs and resupplies all divisions operating in northern and central Cambodia above the Tonle Sap Lake, including the embattled Kompong Thom province.

It is about 100 kilometres north of the Angkor Wat complex in Siem Reap, and the pitted roads leading to it are mined.

If it is captured, the government will have succeeded in wiping out the Khmer Rouge's entire command structure for northern Cambodia, leaving only the headquarters of Polin in western Battambang province.

The government, including King Norodom Sihanouk, has demanded that the guerrillas give up their zones of control in order to join the new government as advisors. The details are to be worked out at round-table talks in November.

If Anlong Veng is in government hands by then, it will give Cambodian leaders significant bargaining powers at the talks.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

50 die in Sri Lankan landslide

COLOMBO (R) — About 50 people were feared dead when part of a village in southern Sri Lanka was buried by an earthslip Friday, police and disaster relief officials said. Rescue teams have so far dug out six bodies, but were hampered by rising flood waters, which made it difficult to move bulldozers and excavators to the area close to Ratnapura, 80 kilometres south of Colombo. About 15 houses and a bus were engulfed in at least three metres of mud when a hillside collapsed onto the village and a road after heavy overnight rains. "We fear up to 50 people may have been buried by the earthslip," a disaster relief official of the Social Services Department said. He said the army, police and volunteers were digging to try to recover more bodies as many women and children were believed to have been in their homes when the hillside and a large rock collapsed onto the village.

NATO MPs discuss Russia crisis

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Legislators from 15 NATO member nations and 14 associated states met here Friday to discuss the political crisis in Russia during their 39th annual session. "The meeting will be overshadowed by the spectacular and terrible events in Moscow," session President Loic Bouvard told a news conference before the meeting opened. Lawmakers from Russia were unable to attend after President Boris Yeltsin dismissed the Soviet-era parliament on Sept. 21 triggering a showdown and a bloodbath Sunday and Monday when loyalist troops stormed the rebel-held parliament building in Moscow. However Danish organisers of the meeting were confident that Nikolai Ryabov, a former deputy parliamentary speaker who is now chairman of the Electoral Commission, and Deputy Security Minister Sergei Stepanin would make the Copenhagen trip to give a first-hand report of the situation in Russia. Greek parliamentarians were also absent due to upcoming general elections.

Russia has 'secret doomsday machine'

NEW YORK (AFP) — Russia has a computerised system that can automatically fire its nuclear arsenal in wartime if military commanders are dead or unable to direct the battle, according to a U.S. military expert. Bruce Blair, with the Brookings Institution in Washington, wrote in a New York Times editorial published Friday that the Russians first tested the "dead hand" in 1984. "Yes, the doomsday machine still exists. The Russians' lavish resources on its modernisation to keep it on combat alert at all times. The risk of its launching weapons by accident is impossible to know, but clearly it increases in a nuclear crisis," he wrote. If such a system exists — and U.S. intelligence analysts believe it is unlikely but possible — it would mark the first time in the nuclear era that a machine has been readied to press the button.

Novelist Morrison wins Nobel Literature Prize

PRINCETON, New Jersey (Agencies) — Novelist Toni Morrison, the first African American to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, says her lyrical works such as *Beloved* and *Jazz* were inspired by "huge silences in literature."

"Winning as an American is very special — but winning as a black American is a knockout," Ms. Morrison, 62, said Thursday in her office at Princeton University after the prize was announced.

In making the award, the Swedish academy called Ms. Morrison "a literary artist of the first rank," whose work is "unusually finely wrought and cohesive, yet at the same time rich in variation."

Ms. Morrison said she was inspired by "huge silences in literature, things that had never been articulated, printed or imagined and they were the silences about black girls, black women."

The author of six novels, Ms. Morrison won the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for *Beloved*, her first work of fiction. The *Bluest Eye* came out in 1970, followed by *Sula* in 1974. *Song of Solomon* in 1977. *Tar Baby* in 1981. *Beloved* in 1987 and *Jazz* in 1992.

Ms. Morrison also lectures on black literature and has written a play and a book of criticism. Since 1981, she has been a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Seated behind the wooden desk of her narrow campus office, a smiling Morrison said that she screamed and laughed with her son upon hearing the news. She is the first American-born winner since John Steinbeck in 1962.

"Whatever you think about prizes and the irrelevance to one's actual work, there is a very distinct tremor when you win a prize like the Nobel Prize," Ms. Morrison said.

Ms. Morrison said she was glad her 87-year-old mother is alive to share her joy, particularly because four other relatives died this year. She also said she had telephoned her sister in Lorain, Ohio, where Ms. Morrison grew up.

Ms. Morrison was born Cioe Anthony Wofford in the steel mill town of Lorain, the second of four children of Alabama sharecroppers who had migrated north. She studied humanities at Howard University and earned a master's degree in American Literature from Cornell University in 1955. She is divorced and has

two sons. A senior editor at Random House for nearly 20 years, she became a professor at Princeton in 1989.

The literature prize was endowed by Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, who also established prizes in medicine, physics, chemistry and peace, to be awarded next week in Stockholm along with the Nobel memorial Prize in Economics. That was established by the Swedish Central Bank in 1969.

Ms. Morrison is the eighth woman to win the literature prize since it was first awarded in 1901. The last woman to win was Nadine Gordimer of South Africa, in 1991; the most recent American winner was Joseph Brodsky in 1987.

Meanwhile, South Africa's Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk are favoured to win the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize, with the Salvation Army the top candidate among organisations. Norway's NRK Television said Tuesday.

The five-member Norwegian Nobel Committee decided the winner of the prestigious annual award, to be announced on Oct. 15, at a secretive meeting in Oslo

Cambodian troops drive towards Khmer Rouge northern stronghold

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodian government troops have begun a "significant" offensive into the northern stronghold of Anlong Veng, the base of notorious Khmer Rouge General Ta Mok near the border with Thailand, government and diplomatic sources said Friday.

Government troops have advanced to within 10 kilometres of Anlong Veng from the south and west, but the advance was slowed by rain and resulting muddy road conditions, one Western diplomatic source said.

"I would call it quite significant," he said.

Deputy Defence Minister General Tea Banh told AFP that about five divisions of unspecified strengths were involved in the fighting, and that troops captured two villages, Cheung and Otapao, defend-

ing the Anlong Veng stronghold. "The Khmer Rouge are attacking throughout the area, and the government is pushing them back," the general said.

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What's next for Jordan?

CHICAGO (AP) — Can a man who knows how to fly learn how to walk behind a lawnmower? Michael Jordan says he can — and will. But what else is in the air for a man who has thrilled millions?

"I'm capable of relaxing," the former Chicago Bulls superstar said, smiling.

Jordan's personal scheduler, Barbara Allen, said Thursday that relaxation might come easy for the player who took only nine years to score 21,541 points in the NBA.

"He's not going to cut back at all," Allen said from the Washington offices of Jordan's agent, David Falk. "Obviously, the only thing he's left is the NBA. He's always kept very busy off the court."

Jordan didn't have many explanations for life after the limelight Wednesday, when he announced his retirement from pro basketball.

Time with his family, some golf, pickup games, and pro basketball as a spectator sport were among his thoughts about the future.

"I'm going to watch the grass grow, and I'm going to have cut it," Jordan said.

But with an estimated \$28 million in commercial endorsements and numerous charitable commitments at stake, the 30-year-old Jordan may find himself calling the kid next door for help with the lawn.

"He has 12 long-term endorsement deals; he'll do commercial filmings," Allen said. "Hopefully he'll be even more of a spokesman for Nike, Wilson Sporting Goods and Gatorade."

Jordan undoubtedly will continue to indulge in his second sporting love, golf — a suggestion that some fellow duffers found alarming.

Jordan hopes leaving basketball will lessen the high-intensity celebrity status that has kept him from leading a normal life.

His friend and competitor, Charles Barkley, said the self-imposed isolation was a heavy piece of Jordan's celebrity baggage.

"One thing that was weird about Michael is that whenever we're together, we're in a hotel room because he doesn't ever go out," the Phoenix Suns star said. "So I don't ever want to be in that predicament — where I can't go out and do anything."

Allen said it's too soon to map Jordan's next stage of life.

"We've not even started to focus on the things he will do immediately," she said.

But Jordan seemed convinced the gap he created by walking away from basketball



Chicago Bulls basketball star Michael Jordan throws out the first pitch of the American League Championship Series Oct. 5 (AFP photo)

was a gap that will be easily filled.

"If I get a pot belly, then I start exercising," Jordan said.

Gambling probe a factor in Jordan retirement

It was the question that never came up: was the NBA's investigation into Jordan's gambling a contributing factor in his decision to retire?

The answer is no, at least for now because NBA commissioner David Stern said the ongoing investigation wasn't finished and Jordan wasn't informed of any of the findings before he announced his retirement.

Stern said there was "absolutely no connection" between the probe and the retirement, telling a Washington Post: "The investigation was nearly complete. We had a meeting scheduled but we deferred it because of this. Michael said he would still come in because he wants the loop to be completed."

Jordan did contact Stern Tuesday to tell him of his decision to retire, NBA spokesman Jan Hubbard said.

Jordan said Wednesday he was leaving the NBA after nine seasons with the Chicago Bulls because he had nothing left to prove and was no longer "hungry." He also said he was moving toward retiring even before the murder of his father two months ago.

But it's the league's gambling probe that still follows Jordan. And until it's addressed by the NBA or Jordan, the speculation will continue.

With his retirement, even if the NBA discovered problems with Jordan's off-court activities, the league is powerless to do anything.

The most recent gambling problems began during this year's playoffs. In May, during the Eastern Conference finals against the New York Knicks, Jordan and his father spent a night gambling at Atlantic City, arriving back in New York the morning of game 2. There was such a fuss made over the trip that Jordan didn't speak to reporters for nearly two weeks.

Before the NBA finals, though, Jordan responded to a book by San Diego businessman Richard Esquinas, who claimed Jordan lost \$1.25 million to him and they had negotiated a \$300,000 settlement.

At that point, the NBA began an investigation into Jordan's gambling on golf and cards. The league also investigated Jordan in 1992 after a bail bondsman was found shot to death with checks from Jordan totalling more than \$200,000. There also were allegations that Jordan bet and associated with high-stakes gamblers, including James Bouvier, a convicted cocaine dealer.

Jordan settled one gambling debt with Bouvier with a \$7,000 check and the NBA investigation ended after three weeks with no action taken.

There is no timetable when the current investigation into Jordan's gambling will be completed.

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Korda reveals heart fears; Ivanisevic in semis

SYDNEY (Agencies) — Number six seed Petr Korda swept into the semi-finals at the \$875,000 Australian Indoor men's tennis championships Friday, then revealed how he feared his career could be over because of a heart scare.

Korda, 25, from the Czech Republic, cruised into the last four with a 6-4, 6-1 straight sets win over Australian Davis cup player Mark Woodforde in 75 minutes.

Korda's victory takes the world's 11th ranked player a step closer to his first title since being struck down by a heart virus in April.

"The doctor told me I had a heart inflammation. I then spent probably the worst five days of my life," said Korda who will play South African Wayne Ferreira in the semi-final Saturday.

Korda slipped from number five to a low of 13 last month as he struggled to regain fitness after recovering from the virus attack.

"I was very tired and I couldn't see the ball properly. I have since changed my diet and I'm trying to be healthy," said Korda, a finalist at last year's French Open.

The Czech blasted past Woodforde, conqueror of number three seed Andrei

Medvedev in the previous round, with a characteristic display of power serving and flashing ground strokes.

At 190 cm tall and weighing 72 kgs, Korda is working off court to build his stamina and strength in a bid to stave off future health problems.

"I am not going to be a Schwarzenegger. I am not going to be huge but I have to make my muscles stronger."

Ferreira, 22, and ranked 22 in the world, booked his passage with a 5-7 6-4 6-2 win in 120 minutes over qualifier Jonathan Canter of the United States.

Goran Ivanisevic launched an intimidating serving attack on Mikael Pernfors on the way to the semi-finals of the championships Friday.

Ivanisevic, the defending champion, aimed his first serve at Pernfors' body, a blurring 188 kmp (117 mph) projectile, to put the frighteners on the Swede and set the tone for a 6-3, 6-2 victory in 67 minutes.

The Croat, who has clocked the fastest serve of the tournament at 200 kmp, made no secret of his game plan.

"My coach Bob Brett told me to serve straight at him on the first point, and that's what I did," said the world No. 9. "He was watching him against

Jamie Morgan and he was standing back and then sneaking in ... and I served, and it was a pretty good serve."

"I tried to scare him, that was my tactic, he's shorter than me and I wanted to scare him from the beginning then he's a little bit afraid."

Pernfors admitted he had been unsettled by the experience.

"I have never played him before and I guess you don't realise it until you play him, but on the first serve he really scared me ... he hit it right at me, and I thought I was going to die, I was in shock after the first serve."

"The big problem is that you don't see where he's going with the serve, I had no idea."

"I tried to take three or four steps forward to meet the ball, but I had to back up, I wanted to come out of there with my head sitting on my body."

Navratilova zips into quarterfinals

In Zurich, top-seeded Martina Navratilova eased into the quarterfinals of the \$750,000 European Indoors with a 6-0, 6-4 win Thursday over Russian qualifier Elena Makarova.

"I still think I'm faster than 99 per cent of the players out

there," Navratilova, 36, said after the second-round win.

The U.S. player is seeking her first win at Zurich. She took over the top seeding when six-time winner Steffi Graf of Germany dropped out with a foot injury.

Navratilova, the world's third-ranked woman player, next faces unseeded Dutchwoman Miriam Oremans.

No. 6 seed Nathalie Tauziat of France, who lost the 1991 final to Graf, defeated Croatian talent Iva Majoli, 6-3, 6-4, for a quarterfinal clash against fifth-seeded Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria.

Ninth-seeded Natalia Zvereva of Belarus downed Olympic doubles champion Gigi Fernandez of the United States, 6-1, 6-4, to set up a quarterfinal with No. 4 seed Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland.

Bruguera upset in Toulouse

In Toulouse, top seed Sergi Bruguera was upset by Morocco's Youness El Aynaoui 6-4, 3-6, 7-6, (7-2) Thursday in the second round of the \$400,000 Toulouse Grand Prix tennis tournament.

Bruguera is ranked No. 4 in the world compared to El Aynaoui's No. 76. Bruguera, the French Open champion, won the Bordeaux tournament last month, his first title on a hard court. The game surface, Greenset, is being used at Toulouse.

However the 22-year-old Moroccan was able to handle Bruguera in a match of more than 2 hours, 30 minutes that ended well after midnight. El Aynaoui fought from a 6-5 deficit in the final set to even it and take the tiebreaker, 7-2.

France's Arnaud Boetsch and compatriot Rodolphe Gilbert also advanced to the quarterfinals. Boetsch, the No. 5 seed, beat Jonathan Stark of the United States, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. Gilbert upset No. 8 seed Marcos Ondruska of South Africa, 7-5, 3-6, 6-5.

Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden, the No. 3 seed, edged Guillaume Raoux of France, 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 7-6 (7-4), and No. 4 seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland eliminated Stephane Simonian of France 6-4, 6-4.

Leander Paes of India, who was a wild card invitation and upset No. 7 seed Marc Goellner of Germany in the first round, lost. Christian Bergstrom of Sweden beat Paes, 1-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4.

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World Cup Africa's places to be decided this weekend

By Mark Gleeson

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Top scorers Rachidi Yekini of Nigeria and Zimbabwe's agent Sawu take centre stage again this weekend as Africa's World Cup qualifying rounds reach a climax with three teams winning berths at the 1994 U.S. finals.

The burly Yekini has scored half of Nigeria's 16 goals in seven qualifiers and helped to put his country just one point away from a first appearance in the finals.

Nigeria need a draw in the second round, Group A match away to Algeria to book their place ahead of African champions Ivory Coast.

Nigeria's Dutch-born Coach Clemens Westerhoff says he expects another goal from Yekini, who turns 30 later this month. Sawu, scorer of seven goals in 10 World Cup qualifiers for Zimbabwe, will have a tougher task adding to his tally in the Group C decider against Cameroon in Yaounde Sunday.

The 21-year-old, who recently had a trial at English Premier League club Liverpool, needs to inspire the unfancied southern Africans to an away win to deny Cameroon, quarter-finalists in Italy in 1990, a third appearance in the finals.

Sawu will take some comfort from the suspension of tough Cameroon defender Victor Ndi-Akem, sent off against Guinea in July.

But the odds are stacked against injury-plagued Zimbabwe, who were without Peter Ndlovu and captain Ephraim Chawanda in their 1-0 win over Guinea in Harare two weeks ago.

Cameroon have not lost a World Cup qualifier at home since a 2-1 defeat by Congo in 1976 and beat Zimbabwe 2-0 in their last match in Yaounde in the qualifiers for the 1982 finals in Spain.

That match marked the debut of Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, back in goal for Zimbabwe 13 years later.

In Sunday's other decider, Zambia need only draw away to Morocco in Casablanca in group B to go through.

orders, those who didn't act almost immediately were left without.

The plan announced Thursday will require Americans to fill out an order form, mail it by Oct. 31 to World Cup organisers, who will then input the information into a computer, which will use a "random selection" programme to select the lucky fans.

Order forms will be mailed to a select group of about 450,000 people, those registered with the U.S. Federation, fans who attended U.S. national team games and those who purchased tickets in the first and second rounds.

World Cup officials promised in the spring that tickets sold to the American public would be handled in a random manner, saying there was no rush to order because the date of ordering the tickets was of no consequence.

But because of an unexpected huge demand and the allowing of fans to buy tickets through phone and mail

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But because of an unexpected huge demand and the allowing of fans to buy tickets through phone and mail

Short blows a winning chance

LONDON (AP) — Nigel Short was unlucky to miss his first win in 14th game of the Professional Chess Association, but lucky not to lose as Garry Kasparov surprised everyone by offering a draw.

"I think the players have some right too," Kasparov told reporters who questioned whether he had given up with a possible winning position.

"I was trying hard but was not in the mood to continue to fight. After the quality of the previous 33 games, I think the players were entitled to draw."

Kasparov leads 9½ to 4½, having won five with nine draws. They meet again Saturday, with Kasparov needing 2½ points to retain his title and 3 to win the match.

The game opened with the Sicilian defence, like all the previous games in which Short has played white.

By move 33, most commentators were predicting that Short would at last score his first win, but he did not play the forceful pawn advance which everyone, including Kasparov, expected.

Short explained after the game that in a long complicated line he had miscalculated and thought the pawn advance would risk losing.

At the press conference after the game, both players were asked to comment on a report that the president of the German Chess Federation, Egon Ditt, had said that Florencio Campomanes would not stand next year for re-election as president of FIDE, the world chess federation.

Both players suggested that this would make little difference in their hostility to FIDE.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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GIVING CAN GO TO FAR

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q J 3
♥ Q 7 8
♦ 8 4 2
♣ 8 5 2

WEST
♠ 7 6 4
♥ J 10 9 4 2
♦ 10 8 5 3
♣ Q

EAST
♠ 10 9 8 5 2
♥ 7 5 3
♦ A 7 3
♣ A K Q J

SOUTH
♠ A K
♥ A K
♦ A K Q J
♣ K J 10 9 4

The bidding:
South: 2♣, 2♦, 2♥, 2NT, 3♣, 3♦, 3♥, 3NT, 4♣, 4♦, 4♥, 4NT, 5♣, 5♦, 5♥, 5NT, 6♣, 6♦, 6♥, 6NT, 7♣, 7♦, 7♥, 7NT, 8♣, 8♦, 8♥, 8NT, 9♣, 9♦, 9♥, 9NT, 10♣, 10♦, 10♥, 10NT, 11♣, 11♦, 11♥, 11NT, 12♣, 12♦, 12♥, 12NT, 13♣, 13♦, 13♥, 13NT, 14♣, 14♦, 14♥, 14NT, 15♣, 15♦, 15♥, 15NT, 16♣, 16♦, 16♥, 16NT, 17♣, 17♦, 17♥, 17NT, 18♣, 18♦, 18♥, 18NT, 19♣, 19♦, 19♥, 19NT, 20♣, 20♦, 20♥, 20NT, 21♣, 21♦, 21♥, 21NT, 22♣, 22♦, 22

Moscow emergency could continue as Yeltsin moves to weed out challengers

Combined agency dispatches

MOSCOW — Moscow's state of emergency could be extended a week to Oct. 17, said the Interfax news agency Friday citing officials, as the capital's military commander warned of a tough response if weekend protests in the capital were to degenerate.

General Alexander Kulikov, in charge of enforcing the state of emergency, warned that any groups "aiming to destabilise the situation in Moscow will be firmly crushed," Itar-Tass reported.

Mr. Kulikov's office said an extension of the state of emergency was needed to round up armed hardliners who escaped the battered Russian parliament when troops loyal to President Boris Yeltsin crushed parliament-led rebellion, Interfax reported.

However, a final decision on prolonging the state of emergency — decreed five days ago at the height of the insurrection against Yeltsin's decision to dissolve the legislature — has yet to be taken, Gen. Kulikov's office said.

An 11:00 p.m. (2000 GMT) to 5:00 a.m. curfew in Moscow is still in force.

In a separate development the Justice Ministry announced the suspension Friday of imprisoned Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi's People's Party of Free Russia and of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, Interfax reported.

The decision followed reports from Gen. Kulikov's office and the Russian public prosecutor's office, the agency said.

On Tuesday Free Russia, jointly headed by Rutskoi and Vasily Lipitski, severely criticised Mr. Rutskoi's role in the bloody rebellion in which around 170 people died.

Mr. Rutskoi was arrested along with Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov after the rebellion collapsed following a tank-backed army assault on the Parliament Monday.

On Tuesday the Justice Ministry suspended the activi-

ties of 16 Communist and ultra-nationalist parties.

A senior aide of Mr. Yeltsin said that Russia's main Communist Party should be banned from December elections and warned conservative regional councils against defying the president's emergency rule.

Sergei Filatov, chief of Mr. Yeltsin's personal administration, said the Communist Party had discredited itself in last week's uprising.

The public prosecutor's office said investigators were considering charges of "organising mass disturbances" against the leaders of the uprising.

If tried and found guilty on such charges, Mr. Rutskoi and Mr. Khasbulatov could face up to 15 years in jail.

Mr. Filatov told a news conference: "My feeling is that those who took part in the action should not participate in these elections."

Asked about the absence of the Communist Party from a list of eight suspended by Mr. Yeltsin for the duration of a state of emergency in Moscow, Mr. Filatov replied:

"If the party is not there, then perhaps another, separate order should be issued."

Communist party leader Gennady Zyuganov backed parliament in the conflict with Mr. Yeltsin. But unlike radical communist Viktor Anpilov and nationalist Ilya Konstantinov, he played no conspicuous role in the violence.

Mr. Filatov called on Mr. Konstantinov and Deputy Parliament Chairman Yuri Voronin, on the run since Yeltsin forces stormed the legislature's White House headquarters on Monday, to surrender to the authorities.

Mr. Anpilov was arrested by security ministry agents at a country house south of Moscow on Thursday.

Mr. Rutskoi and Mr. Khasbulatov, who accuse Mr. Yeltsin of dictatorial ambitions, are now being held in Moscow's Lefortovo prison.

Mr. Filatov said he was convinced that December elections called by Mr. Yeltsin when he abolished parliament

in September would be fair and provide an equal opportunity for all parties not involved in the uprising.

He said Mr. Yeltsin was considering holding a referendum on a new constitution to coincide with the parliamentary polls on Dec. 12. A draft constitution, long delayed by the political conflict with parliament, should be ready by Nov. 5.

He said the state of emergency, formally due to expire on Sunday, "would not last long." He did not explicitly say it would be extended.

Police were using it to the maximum to round up criminal gangs and crack down on armed groups still at liberty after the rebellion, he said.

Mr. Filatov said conservative regional councils, one of the few remaining sources of potential resistance to the president, were being given several days to consider Mr. Yeltsin's appeal to them to disband.

Russia's constitutional court meanwhile accepted its suspension by President Yeltsin, having spent the past two years trying to defend the controversial Communist-era constitution.

The court had brought the country "to the brink of civil war," Mr. Yeltsin said Thursday in announcing its suspension.

It had become a political weapon and its chairman, Valery Zorkin, had abused his position by participating in politics, Mr. Yeltsin added.

The president's remarks were seen as a reference to the several decisions taken by the court in support of the conservative-dominated parliament in its power struggle with Mr. Yeltsin.

The court's interim chairman, Nikolai Vitruk, admitted that the court had become an "organ of political struggle rather than an organ of justice."

"President Yeltsin has not abandoned the idea of such a democratic institution (as a constitutional court)," Mr. Vitruk said. "It is a matter of finding the format (in which the court will operate)."



Palestinian women with pictures of their imprisoned sons are among a few hundred Jews and Arabs demonstrating in Nablus Thursday for the immediate release of thousands of Palestinians held by Israel in prisons in the occupied territories and in Israel (AFP photo)

Israel said to have agreed to free up to 6,000 detainees

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials are preparing a list of up to 6,000 Palestinians to be released from Israeli detention after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to free prisoners during a meeting with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Cairo, Palestinian sources said Friday.

The sources said PLO officials in Tunis faced a major hurdle: an Israeli refusal to release prisoners whom they see as opponents of the landmark Israel-PLO accord signed on Sept. 13, coupled with a refusal by prisoners themselves to be categorised.

"Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails have reached an agreement that they would refuse to accept a deal which distinguishes between opponents and proponents of the accord," said a Palestinian source. "As such, many of them, including Fatah loyalists who support the accord, might simply refuse to leave detention as a political message to the PLO leadership."

"This could complicate things," added the source. Fatah is the mainstream PLO faction headed by Mr. Arafat.

In a letter to Mr. Arafat published Thursday, detainees affiliated with Fatah sharply criticised their leader.

"Who will guarantee you that we will vote for you in the coming elections for the legislative council? We have the power to rebel and we will never accept the peace agreement while there is a single prisoner left in Israeli prisons," said the letter pub-

lished by several Arabic-language dailies in Jerusalem.

According to the source, an agreement was made three weeks ago among all "security" prisoners held in Israeli jails, particularly those from the occupied Gaza Strip, where Hamas, the most vocal opponent of the Israel-PLO accord, is very active.

More than 12,000 Palestinians are believed to be held in Israeli jails. Mr. Rabin's promise to release half of them was seen as aimed at ensuring that hardline Hamas activists would not be let loose in the streets of the occupied territories to undermine the autonomy accord, which takes effect Oct. 13.

The source could not say when the prisoners could be released, but said that the Israeli move could come on Oct. 13 or 14, "provided that PLO and Israeli officials could finalise a list."

During his meeting with Mr. Rabin on Wednesday, Mr. Arafat specifically mentioned Ahmad Yassin, a crippled sheikh who is serving a life sentence in Israel after convicted of inciting his Hamas followers to kill Israeli soldiers.

It was not known whether Sheikh Yassin's name appears on a list being drawn up by the Israelis, said another source, adding that the list was reported to be dominated by members of Fatah and other PLO factions which support the autonomy accord.

"There will have to be a lot of reconciliation between the two lists," said the source. "It seems that the Israelis are

applying their own criteria to decide who could be released."

On Thursday, Israeli peace activists and Palestinians demonstrated in the occupied territories and staged a sit-in at the Red Cross offices in Gaza to demand the unconditional release of all Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails.

Faisal Hussein, the leading PLO activist in the occupied territories, addressed a protest in the West Bank and said that if the PLO-Israeli accord was to succeed, then it was a must that Israel release all Palestinian prisoners without distinction.

Release of Palestinian prisoners was among some of the key demands tabled by Palestinian peace negotiators as part of confidence-building measures sought from Israel at the outset of the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid two years ago. But Israel has been stalling on the issue.

Around 2,000 of the prisoners are being held under a provision that dates back to the British mandate of Palestine which allows for "administrative detention" — imprisonment without trial.

Mr. Hussein himself was jailed several times by the Israeli occupation authorities under this provision.

"There will be no peace if a single one of our prisoners remains in Israeli prisons," Mr. Hussein told a rally of 600 relatives of detainees outside Jeddah prison in Nablis.

"If they (the Israelis) want to make peace, they should free all prisoners, from the PLO and all the other factions, and I promise you all that they will be freed."

Indyk says Israel boycott bad for Jordan, Palestinians

WASHINGTON (USIA) —

The Arab League boycott of Israel and of firms doing business with Israel "makes no sense anymore," and it negatively affects the Palestinian and Jordanian economies as well, a senior U.S. administration official asserted Thursday.

"The Clinton administration feels very strongly that it is time to end the Arab boycott now," Dr. Martin Indyk, director for Near East and South Asian affairs at the National Security Council, told analysts meeting at the American Task Force on Lebanon's annual conference.

"At a time when the Palestinians have decided in the declaration of principles to enter into economic relations with Israel... when Jordan has decided to establish similar joint development projects with Israel, it is not just anachronistic but also counterproductive for the Arab boycott to be maintained," Dr. Indyk said.

Appearing on the second day of the AFL conference entitled "Reconstruction in Lebanon," Dr. Indyk discussed U.S. policy towards Lebanon. Dr. Indyk is principal adviser to the president and to the National Security Council on the Arab-Israeli peace process, the Gulf, and South Asian affairs.

Other panelists were U.S. Representative Christopher Cox, (Republican from California); Farid Abboud, consul general of Lebanon in Los Angeles; and Dr. Michael van Dusen, chief of staff of the House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Indyk said U.S. policy on Lebanon is closely linked to the peace process, and the

administration "remains committed" to the process of rebuilding Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

"I believe there is real cause for optimism about the events on the White House lawn Sept. 13... and those events will impact on Lebanon's future," he said.

"The Palestinians have taken their fate into their own hands, have reached an agreement with Israel which answers that question — and that opens the way for movement towards settlements on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks."

Dr. Indyk strongly discounted recent reports in the Lebanese press that President Bill Clinton "somehow believes that peace is possible without Syria or without Lebanon."

"That is not the policy of this administration," Dr. Indyk declared. "On the contrary — what we see is that the Israel-PLO agreement can serve — must serve — as a catalyst for a wider peace."

Dr. Indyk said that the administration made clear in its invitations to the governments of Lebanon and Syria that it sees the fund-raising conference to support Middle East peace "as a first step," and as Lebanon and Syria reach agreements with Israel, "we see the conference for Middle East peace as a vehicle to provide financial, political backing for their agreements as well."

Dr. Michael van Dusen said legislation before the House Foreign Affairs Committee reflects "how much the world situation is changing," and how many changes are interrelated. The Congress is deleting

Lawyers meet in Tripoli on Pan Am affair

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — A dozen lawyers met in Libya Friday to consider a defence strategy for the two suspects in the Pan Am bombing case, but no decision was expected for several days on surrendering the men for trial.

The United States, Britain and France have threatened to push for stricter U.N. sanctions against Libya unless the suspects, Abdel Basset Ali Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, are given up for trial in the West.

Libya had refused to surrender the men to Britain or the United States, saying neither country could assure a fair trial. But the possibility has opened of trying the men in Scotland, whose courts are separate from the rest of Britain's.

Libyan lawyer Ibrahim Legwell said the defence team, mostly lawyers from Europe, would meet through Saturday and then brief the suspects on their options.

"The whole defence team is meeting here," Mr. Legwell said in a telephone interview from the Libyan capital, Tripoli.

"They are trying to study all the possibilities... taking into consideration the human rights of the suspects," he said. "We want a final conclusion to this matter."

The meeting may be crucial to the timing of a vote in the U.N. Security Council on a U.S. and British draft resolution which tightens sanctions against Libya for refusing to hand the men over for trial in the West.

The defence team is expected to respond to a letter from U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali's earlier this month. The letter contained assurances that the two men would have a fair trial in either Britain or the United States.

Before the meeting started, the official Libyan news agency JANA quoted Scottish lawyer Alistair Duff as saying he excluded the possibility of the two standing trial.

Mr. Duff is taking part in the meeting of defence lawyers and was not available for comment.

Mr. Legwell told Reuters Wednesday the meeting would probably last two to three days and the team would then meet the two accused to discuss their conclusions with them.

Mr. Legwell said the foreign lawyers and legal advisers are from the United States, Britain, Germany, Switzerland and Malta.

Last week, the Libyan government said the two were free to stand trial in Scotland if they wanted, but it refused to set a date for their surrender.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi appears to exclude a possible breakthrough in the near future. On Tuesday, he told Libyans to prepare for armed confrontation with the West and said his government would not give way in the row over Lockerbie.

"Once again confrontation is on the horizon. They (the Western countries) are beating the drums of crusade war, but they will not terrorise us and, in return, we must beat the drums of confrontation and terrorise them," Col. Qadhafi said.

The suspects are charged in Britain and the United States with planting a bomb that blew up Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, on Dec. 21, 1988. All 259 people on the plane and 11 on the ground were killed.

Mr. Legwell said Thursday he assembled the lawyers to help him prepare a defence for a Western courtroom.

The government was not involved in the legal discussions and the Libyan Lawyers' Union was financing the work, Mr. Legwell said.

Libya has been under an air, arms and diplomatic embargo since April 1992 for refusing to hand over the two men. The United States, Britain and France plan to push for further sanctions next week if Libya fails to set a date for surrendering them.

France wants to question four other Libyans about the bombing of a UTA passenger airliner over Niger in 1989 in which 171 people died.

Mr. Legwell said last Friday one of the possibilities under consideration is to have the men tried in Libya, an option that was turned down by the West when it first came up more than a year ago.

COLUMN 800000

Yeltsin makes interior minister Russian hero

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin has awarded Interior Minister Viktor Yerin the title of Hero of the Russian Federation for his role in helping crush a Communist-led rebellion. ITAR-TASS news agency said. The decree awarding the title praised him for his courage and heroism during the uprising, in which almost 200 people died. Mr. Yerin, an army general, was appointed in January 1992.

Rocard fined for libel against Le Pen

PARIS (R) — French Socialist Party Chief Michel Rocard was fined for libel by a Paris court for accusing far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen of torturing Arab prisoners during the Algerian War. The court fined Rocard 10,000 French francs (\$1,760) and ordered him to pay a further 8,000 francs (\$1,400) damages for making the accusations during a television debate in February 1992. The court agreed Mr. Le Pen, leader of the National Front, publicly justified the use of torture by the French army during the 1954-1962 Algerian War of independence but said he never admitted being involved. Mr. Rocard's lawyers attempted to back their client's allegations but the court ruled their evidence was inadmissible because it was more than 10 years old. Mr. Le Pen voluntarily took leave from parliament in 1956-1957 to serve as a reserve officer in a parachute unit trying to halt a wave of bomb attacks by Algerian nationalists against French civilians in Algiers. The use of torture by the "paras" sparked international controversy. The award-winning Italian film The Battle of Algiers, made after the war and recounting the events, was banned from French screens for many years afterwards.

Chancellor to move to Berlin in 2000

BONN (AP) — The date for moving the seat of Germany's government from Bonn to Berlin has been fixed for the year 2000. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's top aide says. Friedrich Bohl, Mr. Kohl's chief of staff, told the newspaper Die Welt that the move of the chancellery and 12 of the 20 federal ministries should be completed between 2000 and 2002. "The chancellor will move in 2000," Mr. Bohl was quoted as saying in Friday's issue of Die Welt. The newspaper's early edition was available in Bonn Thursday evening. Mr. Bohl said it was now up to the German parliament to decide when it would move from Bonn to the capital of united Germany. In a bitterly contested vote, the parliament voted in 1991 to move the government to Berlin, but said the transfer would take years and did not fix a firm date. Eight federal ministries will remain in Bonn, which served as the capital until German reunification in 1990, in an effort to save the city on the Rhine from a sudden decline. The move is expected to cost billions of marks (dollars), and opponents of Berlin have been urging the government to stay in Bonn to save money, despite parliament's decision.

Imelda Marcos appeals conviction

MANILA (AFP) — Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos appealed Friday her recent conviction for graft, calling it an unconstitutional decision by a hostile judge. The widow of deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos said in a motion for reconsideration filed with a court that sentenced her to a maximum 24 years in jail last month that her guilt had not been proven "beyond a reasonable doubt."

Mrs. Marcos, out on bail while appealing the verdict, had been found guilty on two counts of graft for leasing state-owned property to a foundation which she also chaired, resulting in losses to the government of \$4.4 million. Each count carries a jail term of nine to 12 years. The transactions, made in the early 1980s, took place while she served on her husband's cabinet. Mrs. Marcos is facing more than 100 other criminal and civil cases for allegedly helping her husband loot the treasury during a 20-year rule ended by a popular revolt in 1986.

U.N.-Iraq talks to resume in November

MANAMA (Agencies) —

High-level talks between Iraq and the United Nations will resume in New York in mid-November to try to eliminate obstacles to the lifting of sanctions, senior U.N. official Rolf Ekeus said on Friday.

Mr. Ekeus told reporters after concluding a week of talks in Baghdad that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz would go to New York for the talks.

"We're in agreement that this is an... important process," said Mr. Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) entrusted with eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under the terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire.

The U.N. Security Council is awaiting a clean bill of health from UNSCOM before deciding on lifting the oil embargo on Iraq, which on Thursday offered to answer U.N. questions of weapons procurement (see page 2).

Mr. Ekeus said the U.N. side would try to use the talks in November to tie up some of the "loose ends" and speed up the process of ensuring that Iraq both has no more prohibited weapons and is committed to long-term U.N. monitoring.

Before leaving Baghdad, Mr. Ekeus said it was still too early to say that Iraq was complying fully with the weapons terms of the ceasefire — the main condition for a lifting of sanctions in force since shortly after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Addressing reporters here, Mr. Ekeus said there was "considerable progress" on Iraqi compliance with other long-standing demands contained in Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

But Mr. Ekeus also said Iraq continued to balk at open acknowledgement of Security Council Resolution 715, which is one of the conditions set by the council for lifting the embargo.

The resolution calls for a long-term monitoring plan,

Major speech seen to patch up Tories

BLACKPOOL (AFP) —

Britain's Conservatives, in four days of fractious debate and fraternal fence-mending, managed to regain a semblance of unity with a sharp swing to the right that played heavily on what Prime Minister John Major termed "a return to old core values."

In a 63-minute speech that earned him an 11-minute standing ovation, Mr. Major mused get-tough tactics with criminals and European neighbours alike.

"I must say to some of our European colleagues who are dragging their feet in world trade talks, 'you're playing with fire. Or, to put it more bluntly, 'get your tractors off our lawn.'"

He hammered out a right-wing domestic platform of return to law-and-order, family values, and ore effective public education.

"We have allowed things to happen that we should never have tolerated," he said. "Some said the family was out of date... others told us criminal behaviour was society's fault... it was fashionable — but wrong, wrong, wrong."

"He's back on the right-wing agenda and we're going to make sure he stays with us," said Conor Burns, an elated delegate from Southampton.

Graham O'Hare from Lancashire said the conference "as a whole had succeeded in building party unity."

"There was no blood in the aisles as people were predicting."

Mr. Major delivered a "good speech," he said. "Good, but not brilliant. He's not a brilliant orator. He's not Margaret Thatcher. Thatcher had 80 per cent of the party who would have died for her. But Major demonstrated that the party can deliver. And that's what matters."

"He demonstrated he is not only the best leader this country could possibly have at the present," said Tony Slater of Lancaster, "but also that he is the best leader this country has ever had."

"We are even more united now than we have been for years," he said.

Keen to energise the party and boost his plummeting

opinion poll ratings after a year of bitter internecine squabbling that had raised the spectre of a leadership challenge, Major hammered home at the rightward direction set by ministers earlier in the week.

Home Secretary Michael Howard set the law-and-order theme with a vow to abolish criminals' right to silence and give police tough new search and seizure powers.

Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley promised to crack down on welfare cheats.

Chancellor Kenneth Clarke, committed to tightening government purse strings, reaffirmed a spending freeze and made clear the controversial new value added tax (VAT) on home heating, a volatile issue at the start of the conference, would not be reversed.

The tax, to take effect next year and bring in an estimated £3 billion (\$4.5 billion), is needed, he said, to help trim Britain's £50 billion (\$75 billion) national debt.

"It is time to return to the old core values... to self-discipline and respect for the law... and more conservatism," Mr. Major declared to thunderous applause from the 1,500 delegates.

"We have listened too often and too long to people whose ideas are light years away from common sense."

Mr. Major dealt too with the ticklish issue that effectively clouded much of the conference. The publication of excerpts from former Premier Margaret Thatcher's memoirs in which she purportedly calls him "politically naive," "small-minded" and "an intellectual lightweight."

The remarks published in the Daily Mirror newspaper referred to the period when Mr. Major was Mrs. Thatcher's chancellor of the exchequer.

"I am not about to write my memoirs," said Mr. Major. "I can tell you now, straight away, precisely what I think of my cabinet. They're a first-class team. They're steady under fire. They're united and they're serving Britain superbly."

"Like all families from time to time we have our squabbles," he said.